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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Security, Civilian Affairs Committees Meet 1
Committees' Agendas Detailed *[MENA]* 1
Sha'th, Shahaq Comment on Talks *[MENA]* 1
'Major Differences' on Entry of Police *[MENA]* 1
'Extremely Slow' Progress Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Sha'th on Timetable for Entry of Police *[MENA]* 2
Delegate Arrives for Civilian Committee Talks *[MENA]* 3
Sources on 'Crisis' in Negotiations *[MENA]* 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, Iraqi Minister Discuss Embargo *[MENA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Mar 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From U.S. Administration *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Ghawshah on Negotiations, Police Force *[Cairo International]* 5
Qaddumi Interviewed on Negotiations *[AL-MUSAWWAR 1 Apr]* 6
First Group of Deportees To Leave Cairo for Gaza *[MENA]* 10
Return of 3 'Arafat Aides Vetoed *[JORDAN TIMES 5 Apr]* 10
PFLP, DFLP on 'Discrimination' in Deportees' Return *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
Iran's Rowhani Meets With Rejectionist Officials *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

FIS Denies Pledge To Halt Violence, Armed Action *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Apr]* 12
FIS Accuses Authorities of 'Wave of Killings' *[AFP]* 12
Over 300 Foreigners Arrested in Tamanrasset *[Algiers Radio]* 12

Egypt

Syrian President Arrives for 'Surprise' Summit 13
Peace Process on Agenda *[Beirut Radio]* 13
Cairo Radio Confirms al-Asad Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Mubarak, al-Asad Discuss Issues *[MENA]* 13
Egyptian Envoy Comments *[MENA]* 13
Mubarak, al-Asad Meet Privately *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Damascus Radio Details Cairo Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 14
Mubarak, al-Asad Talks Resume 5 Apr *[MENA]* 14
Mubarak Discusses National Dialogue With NDP Members *[Cairo Radio]* 14
Palestinian Exile Group Leaves for Gaza *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Palestinian Troops Head to Border Town *[MENA]* 15

Interior Minister on Plans To 'Eradicate' Terrorists *[MENA]* 15
Eleven 'Extremists' Arrested; Letters, Weapons Seized *[MENA]* 15
'Active Terrorist' Killed by Police in Upper Egypt *[MENA]* 15

Sudan

Government Order Closes AL-SUDANI AL-DUWALI *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

Tunisia

Joint Statement Issued After Ben Ali-Zeroual Meeting *[Tunis Radio]* 16
Authorities Ban Sales of French Daily *[Paris International]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Yemen's Salih Comments on Visit Before Departure *[Muscat TV]* 18
Yemen's al-Bid Departs Muscat 4 Apr *[Muscat TV]* 18
Omani Minister Comments on Talks *[Muscat TV]* 18
Government Official Says Yemeni Talks Failed *[AFP]* 19
Minister Comments *[Cairo Radio]* 20

Qatar

Yemen's Salih Arrives in Doha, Makes Statement 4 Apr *[Sanaa Radio]* 20
Salih Meets Expatriate Community *[Sanaa Radio]* 20

Yemen

Salih Threatens To Use Force Against Southern Leaders *[London MBC TV]* 21
'Source' Denies Salih Threatened Use of Force *[MENA]* 21
Al-Bid Returns to Aden From UAE, Oman Visits 4 Apr *[WAKH]* 21
YSP Source Denies Oman Meeting Requested by al-Bid *[WAKH]* 21

IRAQ

Daily on Foreign Minister's Efforts To 'Heal' Rift *[Cairo AL-WAFD 29 Mar]* 22
Oil Minister Explains Refusal To Sign OPEC Accord *[INA]* 22
Opposition: Envoys Recalled, New Security Council Formed *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 22
PUK Issues Statement on Killing of AFP Reporter *[AFP]* 23
Paper Notes Remarks of Saudi Foreign Minister at GCC *[INA]* 23
Parliamentary Talks Held With Jordanian Delegation *[INA]* 24
'Thousands' of Kurds Enter Country From Turkey *[AFP]* 24
Iraq Protests U.S. Aircraft Violations to UN *[Baghdad Radio]* 24

ISRAEL

Rabin Reportedly To Travel to Cairo 12 Apr *[MENA]* 25
Rabin on Possibility of 'Arafat Meeting *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Rabin: Implementation To Require 'a Few Days' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Rabin Rejects PLO Demands Regarding Qatif *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Rabin, Peres Seen Changing Stand on Russian Role *[HA'ARETZ 5 Apr]* 26
Russian Envoy Briefs Rabin on Tunis, Jordan Meetings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Says Russia Coordinating With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Peres Meets Norwegian, Danish, Italian Envoys *[Jerusalem New Channel 2 TV]* 26
Cave of Patriarchs Closed Pending 'New Arrangements' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Temple Mount Reopened to Non-Muslims *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Cabinet Puts Off Discussion on Hebron Evacuation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Preparations Made for Return of Deportees, 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
IDF To Be Responsible for Palestinian Policemen *[Jerusalem TV]* 28

IDF, Forces To Foil Jewish Riots on Evacuation Day *[HA'ARETZ 5 Apr]* 28
Ministry Prepares Working Paper on Golan Security *[HA'ARETZ 5 Apr]* 28
Foreign Ministry Group Barred Entrance To Oman *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Desalination Project on Jordanian Border Presented *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Mar]* 29
Bank of Jordan Opens First Branch in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Shamgar Commission Continues To Hear Testimonies *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Further on Testimonies *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Arabs Killed, Identified by IDF as Wanted Men *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Palestinian Sources: 24 Hurt in Clashes With IDF *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

Washington Meeting on Ship Inspections To Be Held *[AL-RA'Y 5 Apr]* 31
Chief of Staff Meets U.S. Naval Force Commander *[Amman Radio]* 31
Al-'Anani on Ship Searches, Arab Relations *[AL-ASWAQ 4 Apr]* 31
Al-Hasan Views Israeli Practices, Peace Process *[Cairo TV]* 34
Country 'Not Party' to Israeli Desalination Project *[JORDAN TIMES 31 Mar-1 Apr]* 35
Palestinian Coordination Committee Welcomed *[AL-DUSTUR 4 Apr]* 35
King Receives Returning Palestinian Deportees *[Amman Radio]* 36
King Husayn Addresses Hebron Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 36
Envoy to Yemen on Joint Military Committee Mission *[AL-RA'Y 4 Apr]* 36
Jordanian Afghans' Leader on Foreign Funding *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Mar]* 37
Security Officials Investigating Hotel Fire *[Amman Radio]* 37

LEBANON

Buwayz Queried on Peace Talks, Christopher Tour *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Ongoing Security Measures, Bomb Incidents Detailed *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Minister Says Media Law To Be Issued 'Soon' *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Hizballah Statement Criticizes Cabinet Media Ban *[AL-'AHD 25 Mar]* 39
Papers Criticize Comments of Christian Patriarch *[AFP]* 39

SYRIA

U.S. Placement of Syria on Drug List Criticized *[AFP]* 40
Peres Statement on Syrian Track Progress Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Tehran on Significance of al-Asad's Cairo Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 41
No Date for al-Asad Visit to Iran *[Tehran TV]* 41
Velayati at Pan-African Congress on Third World Unity *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Commentary Examines Saudi Actions on Hajj Pilgrimage *[Tehran TV]* 42
Tehran Views GCC Foreign Minister's Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 43
TEHRAN TIMES Lauds UAE Statement on Disputed Island *[IRNA]* 43
Majles Deputies Blame Armenian Army for Plane Crash *[Tehran Radio]* 44

Arab-Israeli Talks

Security, Civilian Affairs Committees Meet

Committees' Agendas Detailed

NC0404115994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed today to discuss implementation of the autonomy agreement in Gaza and Jericho.

The Security Affairs Committee held its second meeting this week [starting Saturday, 2 April]. The Palestinian side is chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political advisor, while the Israeli side is chaired by General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff.

The committee started its meetings yesterday in implementation of the agreement reached between Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Gen. Amnon Shahaq on Thursday, 31 March.

The Security Committee is discussing during its meetings security arrangements in Gaza and Jericho and the locations where the Palestinian forces will be deployed, as well as the area of Jericho and the release of Palestinian detainees whose number is estimated at around 10,400, according to Red Cross statistics.

The Security Committee is also discussing arrangements regarding the entry of the Palestinian police force to Gaza and Jericho. Their number is estimated at around 10,000 individuals.

The Palestinian-Israeli Civilian Affairs Committee also started its meetings this morning. The Palestinian side is chaired by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi and the Israeli side by Gadi Zohar, chief of Civil Administration in the West Bank.

The Committee is discussing how to continue transferring power, services, and facilities to the Palestinian side. In previous rounds, agreement had been reached to transfer 90 percent of the authorities from the Israeli side to the Palestinian side.

On the other hand, MENA learned that the Palestinian-Israeli Economic Committee will meet in Paris the day after tomorrow, Wednesday. The Palestinian side will be chaired by Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the PLO's Economic Department, and the Israeli side will be chaired by Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

Palestinian sources had recently mentioned possibilities of transferring the venue of the Economic Committee meetings to Cairo.

Sha'th, Shahaq Comment on Talks

NC0404142494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings, has stressed that the main objective of the Security Committee meeting today is to complete the negotiations concerning the establishment of the Palestinian police force, the timetable for the force's entry, and the date the vanguards will arrive in the Arab territories.

In statements before starting the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations today, Dr. Sha'th said the Legal Affairs Committee is expected to begin its work today after legal advisers arrive from the West Bank and Gaza. Sha'th said several Palestinians from the occupied territories are expected to arrive today to take part in the meetings of the committee in charge of transferring power. The committee started its work in Cairo today.

In his statements, Dr. Sha'th said the delegates will also discuss the possibility of drawing up a timetable for the release of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees. He noted that the committee stemming from the Gaza-Jericho Committee will meet today and will continue working day and night to achieve an agreement as soon as possible. He said several Norwegians from the international observer force will arrive in Cairo today.

General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli side to the negotiations, said this round of talks will continue until Wednesday evening. He said he hoped that positive results would be achieved as soon as possible.

Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the Palestinian side to the Security Committee, expects that an agreement will be reached very soon, noting that if progress is achieved in the talks, the negotiations concerning the Palestinian police force will be concluded today.

Brig. Gen. al-Yahya affirmed that Palestinian President 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday.

'Major Differences' on Entry of Police

NC0404161594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Responsible Palestinian military sources have affirmed that there are major differences between the Palestinian and the Israeli sides over arrangements for the entry of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho.

In statements to MENA, the sources said the Israeli side wants a limited number—no more than seven individuals—of the vanguards of the Palestinian police force to enter these areas for a site inspection. Then, a small force

can enter some time between April and mid-May. The main body of the force could enter at the beginning of July.

The sources warned against the dangers that could crop up because of the delay in the entry of the basic police force into Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian sources clarified that the Palestinian military leadership, which has met for three days running in Cairo, set out a specific working paper, which it dispatched to President Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat asked Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, to adhere to this working paper during his negotiations with the Israeli side.

These sources specified the demands of the Palestinian military command in the following points:

1. Compliance with a specific timetable endorsed by the Israeli side and linking the entry into Gaza and Jericho of the vanguards of the Palestinian police force and the remaining members of the force.

2. Agreement on the magnitude and arming of the force. A timetable is to be set out for the entry of the Palestinian force's equipment.

3. A strong entry by the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho, so that the Palestinians in these territories, who have long suffered occupation and frustration, can feel pride and dignity.

The same sources added that the Palestinian side stressed to the political leadership the need to set out a timetable for the entry of the police force, providing entry is complete before the end of April. The sources noted that the Israeli side is now discussing delaying the entry of the force from 15 May, which marks the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, to 1 July. This could create a security vacuum that might result in serious moral and military consequences, the sources noted.

The sources added that the Israelis want the Palestinian police force to enter Gaza and Jericho in closed vehicles or buses and in a way that resembles the entry of prisoners or infiltrators, not as security forces returning to their land with pride and dignity, something that will affect the mission of these forces and their future dealings with the Palestinian people, who have suffered much from Israel's occupation and its repressive measures.

The Palestinian sources added that the Israelis also want the equipment and weapons of the Palestinian police to enter in sealed boxes, thus denying them the opportunity to test them. The sources demanded that the 200 vehicles the United States decided to give to the Palestinian police be handed over in Egypt or al-'Arish, not in Israel, so that they might be examined, painted in distinguishing Palestinian colors, and marked with the security emblem of the Palestinian police. The same sources stressed that the magnitude of the Palestinian force has not been fully determined, adding that this topic will be discussed during the current round.

The sources named the military commanders who must enter Gaza and Jericho as follows: Nasr Yusuf, commander in chief of the Palestinian forces; Haj Isma'il, official in charge of security in the Palestinian command; Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Mahaydah, who is the chief of staff; Mamduh Nawfal, from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Muhammad Qudsiyah, commander of the Badr Forces in Jordan. The following are the names of the Palestinian commanders who must enter Gaza [as received]: Sa'ib al-'Ajiz, commander of the Palestinian Forces in Sudan; Khalid Sultan, commander of the Palestinian forces in Libya; Muhammad Fawj, alias Abu-Humayd, commander of the Palestinian forces in Yemen; and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hayy 'Abd-al-Wahid, commander of the 'Ayn Jalut Forces in Egypt.

'Extremely Slow' Progress Reported

TA0404201694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] At the end of the second day of the deliberations of the military committee in Cairo, it transpires that the progress being made is extremely slow, despite public declarations on the intention to facilitate the talks and reach an agreement soon. Our correspondent in Cairo Arye Gus has learned that the Palestinians are avoiding agreements on various issues, and that they tried to reopen several issues which have already been concluded, such as the deployment of the Palestinian forces in Gaza and the timetable for the deployment of the police force in the autonomy areas. There are also differences between Israel and the PLO on the technical procedures for the entrance of the police force to the territories. Our correspondent was told that the Palestinians will not be given any responsibility over the autonomy areas before the agreement is signed, although they will be responsible for refugee camps handed over to them in these areas.

Sha'th on Timetable for Entry of Police

NC0404205794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and chief of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to implement the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, has stated that today, the Phrasing Committee virtually completed the timetable for the entry of the police force to Gaza and Jericho and the details concerning its number, its jurisdiction, and powers.

Speaking to reporters following the working sessions that ended at 1930, Sha'th said: We are awaiting the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships' approval of some articles.

Commenting on reports of disagreements between the Israelis and Palestinians concerning the Palestinian

police force, he said: I do not believe there are problems. We are talking about working out some details later on.

Sha'th said that no final agreement has been reached yet and that the two sides are awaiting the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships' approval of what has been reached. He added that negotiations will continue on the timetable for the entry of the police force, the nature of the force, and its armament.

The Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will resume their meetings in an hour.

Delegate Arrives for Civilian Committee Talks

NC0404204894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Zuhayr Lahham, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening to take part in the talks of the Civilian Affairs Committee.

Lahham will supervise the arrangements for the transfer of authority over telecommunications in Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian guest was received by Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal.

Sources on 'Crisis' in Negotiations

NC0504102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Sources from the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have agreed that substantial differences are impeding the current negotiations in Cairo to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

The sources said that these negotiations are going through "a crisis," despite some positive statements.

The Palestinian sources told MENA that the Israeli side continues to refuse to draw up a definite timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. They added that the Israeli side is also refusing to draw up a timetable for the entry of the Palestinian police and specifications for the type of weapons to be used by this force.

The Palestinian sources went on to say that the Israeli side, which has mainly used civilian negotiators with the exception of Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, wants to ignore the Palestinian military commanders' view of the security and military situation in Gaza and Jericho. They added that these commanders are demanding a definite timetable for the entry of their main forces into the Palestinian self-rule area in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area. They are also demanding an agreement on the type of weapons needed for these forces to achieve security in the areas from which Israel will withdraw.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, Iraqi Minister Discuss Embargo

NC0404172894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Iraqi Labor Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, who is leading his country's delegation to the Arab Labor Conference in Cairo.

The Iraqi minister said that during his meeting with the secretary general they discussed Iraq's position regarding the UN Security Council's decision to extend the sanctions imposed on it. He pointed out that some Security Council members, including Russia and China, are inclined to lift these sanctions.

Jasim told reporters that the embargo on Iraq has deprived the citizens of basic commodities and services including some foodstuffs, medicines, electric power, and sewage systems.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Mar

NC0504060594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 29 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Report on Violence in Asyut
2. Alexandria University Teaching Club Elections
3. Article by Muslim Brotherhood Official Dr. Ahmat al-Malat
4. Criticism of the Movie "The Terrorist"
5. Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali Column
6. Reaction to Ban on Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi Sermons
7. Article on Land Day

REPORT ON VIOLENCE IN ASYUT

On page 4, the newspaper publishes a 2,000-report by Qutb al-'Arabi on the ongoing confrontation between the security forces and the Islamic groups in Asyut. The report notes that violence has escalated in Asyut in the past three months, with armed operations against the police increasing from six operations in January, to nine in February, to 18 operations in March. Over 50 people, including policemen, citizens, and Islamic group members, have been killed and over 70 others have been wounded in these operations. The report then tries to explain the reasons for this escalation, putting the blame squarely on the government's heavy-handed policy. The report says "the leaders of the Islamic current in Asyut (Labor Party-Muslim Brotherhood) believe that the reduction of violence in Asyut must take place within the

framework of a comprehensive solution that will establish real pluralism and democracy and allow and decriminalize freedom of political action." "Moreover, moderate Islamic leaders believe that the haphazard arrest of citizens in Asyut, their detention as hostages, their harsh treatment, and the blockade of residential quarters encourage the escalation of violence and the formation of a strong front supporting it." The report notes that these government tactics "feed the industry of violence" in Asyut. It calls for lifting the blockade on al- Walidiyah quarter and allowing freedom of movement for its inhabitants.

ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY TEACHING CLUB ELECTIONS

In an 800-word report on page 4 by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad, the newspaper says that "despite strong government pressure and overt rigging", the Islamists won 6 seats in the elections for the board of directors of the teaching club of Alexandria University. The government ticket won the remaining eight seats while the leftist ticket won no seats. The report identifies the elected Islamist members of the teaching club as Dr. 'Umar al-Barbari, Dr. 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Salamah, Dr. Mustafa Abu-al-Huda, Dr. Mustafa Abu-al-'Aynayn, Dr. al-Masiri, and Dr. Nabil al-Mulukhiyah.

ARTICLE BY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL DR. AHMAD AL-MALAT

On page 5, the newspaper publishes a 1,500-word article by Muslim Brotherhood official Dr. Ahmad al-Malat. Referring to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, al-Malat deplores the weakness of the Muslims who now receive "blow after blow" and "slap after slap," without doing anything. He adds that "regrettably, the media, including the Egyptian media, have not paid any attention to this tragedy, as if it was an earthquake that happened in a remote place and did not harm us in any way." The media have maintained their "trivia" and their "deliberate defiance of Islamic values." "The last days of Ramadan were celebrated with dancing, nakedness, and entertainment. The Koran's share on the radio were a few minutes every day while 'Adawiyah [a folklore singer] got the lion's share." The writer goes on to say that all the Arab governments without exception have become "defeatist", running after the "mirage of peace" which they are worshiping instead of God.

CRITICISM OF THE MOVIE "THE TERRORIST"

On page 9, the newspaper carries a 900-word critique by Sharif Samih of the movie "The Terrorist," played by famous Egyptian actor-comedian 'Adil Imam. Samih says "the movie represents the Interior Ministry's view of terrorism. It deals with this issue "very superficially" and without trying to identify the roots of the problem. He goes on to say that if the movie's message is to entertain and kill two hours of time, then it has succeeded, but of its message is to fight terrorism, then it has failed. Samih says the move has no relation to reality and is based on a fabricated scenario. The audience are only attracted by 'Adil Imam's acting abilities and by the "sexual jokes" in the movie.

Also on page 9, reader Muhsin Mahmud Amin Sarhan from the College of Sciences says the movie "The Terrorist" offers an alternative slogan to the slogan "Islam is the solution. The alternative slogan is "Corruption is the solution" because the movie urges us to emulate the "immoral and dissolute Western civilization."

SHAYKH MUHAMMAD AL-GHAZALI COLUMN

In his 800-word column "This Is Our Religion" on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali criticizes an article headlined "Religion and Ideology" by counselor Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi. Al-Ghazali notes that al-'Ashmawi's article is "vague" and "deliberately creates confusion" between heavenly and terrestrial religions. He says al-'Ashmawi equates Buddhism and Hinduism with Islam and Christianity. Wihout offering a counteropinion, he also takes al-'Ashmawi to task for saying that "Islam is a religion, while the doctrines embraced by some groups are ideology." Referring to the British Parliament's passage of a law reducing the age of consent among homosexuals to 18, al-Ghazali asks whether the religious people who oppose this legislation do harm to God or interere in politics. He also asks if this "abnormal" legislation is adopted in the Arab world, will we blame the pious youths if they oppose it? He then says that the Koran is an immortal book that specifies the following punishment for those who commit adultery: "Flog each of them with a hundred stripes: Let not compassion move you in their case, in a matter prescribed by God, if ye believe in God and the last day."

REACTION TO BAN ON 'ABD-AL-KAFI SERMONS

On page 12, the newspaper publishes an 800-word article by writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus entitled "Blatant Injustice." The writer says the ruling regime has committed grave mistakes in fighting the "entire Islamic current," thus winning the enmity of wide sectors of the people. Giving an example, the writer says the "police rule was blatantly manifested in the decision to prevent Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi from delivering sermons, although he never attacked the government." The writer notes that the government caved in to the demands of the secular people and haters of Islam and adopted this measure against the popular preacher, who used to attract large crowds of worshipers.

ARTICLE ON LAND DAY

On page 12, the newspaper publishes a 2,000-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar on "Land Day," celebrated by the Arabs of Israel on 30 March of each year. The article reviews the events of that day on 30 March 1976 when the Arabs of Israel staged strikes and demonstrations to protest the seizure of their lands by the Israeli Government. Six Arabs were killed by the Israeli forces during these protests. The writer notes that the Arabs of

Israel are a force to be reckoned with and will have the "final say" in the long conflict with Israel over the land.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From U.S. Administration

LD0404231594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] With regard to Palestinian diplomacy, the Palestinian president received today the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, who delivered to him a message from the U.S. Administration in connection with the recently signed agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis on security in Hebron.

In his reply to this message, Mr. 'Arafat asked the U.S. Administration to speed up the implementation of the pledges of the international banks and the countries that expressed readiness to offer financial and economic aid to the Palestinians in order to begin executing the essential services in the territories that would come under Palestinian self-rule.

Ghawshah on Negotiations, Police Force

NC0404120294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghawshah, in Tunis, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, what new principles must the upcoming Palestinian-Israeli negotiations be based on after a full month of hiatus following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre? How do the Palestinians envision the next talks?

[Ghawshah] Undoubtedly, the negotiations will be based on the practical implementation of the Declaration of Principles. But we can say that the new talks must focus on accelerating the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as a practical preparation for the full implementation of the Declaration of Principles. This will be the first step in the interim stage before subsequent steps are taken to reach the final stage.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that the arrival of the first groups of Palestinian police in Gaza beginning on Tuesday is a real beginning to the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Ghawshah] The arrival of the first group of police is part of the latest agreement on the security measures following the Hebron massacre. We are supposed to begin these moves within days, on Thursday at the latest, for the entry of the first battalion of the Palestinian police force. We believe that this is the beginning of a tangible step that must be followed by others. We will discuss a timetable for the entry of the Palestinian police as soon as possible during the negotiations.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think that the Palestinian police force, still in its initial stage, can protect the Palestinian people under the occupation, or must international forces impose themselves at this stage?

[Ghawshah] The Palestinian police will face no problem except from one side, the armed settlers. This is a major responsibility that also rests on the shoulders of the Israeli police. International observers must be deployed in areas where Palestinian forces are not, such as Hebron. But for us, we believe the Palestinian police force, when its deployment is completed, can perform its duty and face all eventualities, including aggression by settlers, especially in Gaza and Jericho.

[Al-Jundi] Has the relationship among the Palestinian force, the Israeli Army, and the Jewish settlers been decided?

[Ghawshah] This is one of the points being discussed at the Cairo negotiations.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Samir Ghawshah, the Palestinians have asked that the Palestinian-Israeli talks be transferred to Cairo instead of Washington. This is because of the Egyptian diplomacy's clear activity in reconciling the two sides at the negotiating table, which is known as positive mediation.

[Ghawshah] There is undoubtedly a big qualitative difference in the role and effort. Before anything else, Egypt is an Arab country. It has its clear position in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people, and it has a positive role in pushing the negotiations toward the practical implementation of the UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In addition, Egypt knows the details and it is geographically close. This makes the Egyptian role effective. On the other hand, so far the United States has not been playing its full role. It has not been an active partner. U.S. officials have often said that they would leave the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators without intervention in their negotiations. But the fact was that the Americans were biased toward the Israelis. In short, we can say that the Egyptian role is outstanding. The efforts of Egyptian diplomacy were clear in both the negotiations and in supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people until they achieve their full rights, including their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Ghawshah] You are welcome.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Negotiations

NC0504063494 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 1 Apr 94 pp 14-17

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Salwa Abu-Sa'dah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi "Abu-al-Lutf", head of the PLO Political Department, one of the organization's prominent leaders, and indeed one of the strongest opponents of the "bad" articles of the Oslo agreement, as he puts it, has given this exclusive interview to AL-MUSAWWWAR. Hebron's massacre, its repercussions, active influence on the peace process, and the changes of priorities and concepts that it dictated, particularly its undermining of the Israeli security theory, was one of the chief issues he discussed. Neither Rabin's policies nor the U.S. violation and circumvention of the text and principles of the U.S. peace initiative escaped Abu-al-Lutf's analysis. In the following interview he outlines the necessary Palestinian negotiating method and sets forth the priorities of Palestinian action after the Gaza-Jericho agreement is implemented.

[Abu-Sa'dah] During the Arab foreign ministers meeting two days ago, did you expect better results than the ones actually achieved in connection with the Jerusalem issue and protection for the Palestinians? What level of Arab action do you believe is necessary to serve this cause?

[Qaddumi] The Arab group should handle the task of barring U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This group should also mobilize world support for our demands on this issue, taking into account the fact that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. The United States cannot turn its back on the principles on which the peace process was founded. These principles maintain that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. UN Security Council resolutions specify this, too. Several weeks ago the U.S. Administration submitted a message on human rights which referred to the same point.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What do you say about President Clinton's remark that Jerusalem is Israel's capital?

[Qaddumi] The United States, explaining its reservations about the Jerusalem paragraph in the relevant UN Security Council resolution, says that Jerusalem is being left to the final status negotiations. Actually this is a manipulation of words. The United States must be an impartial intermediary and must not interfere in such matters but must let the negotiations take their course. There must be no alteration of the text of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which considers East Jerusalem part of the Palestinian occupied territories. The United States should not give the impression to the world that these territories are disputed territories in line with Israel's pretension that it regained the Palestinian occupied territories from Egypt and Jordan. The UN partition resolution that gave Israel its own birth certificate declares that these territories are Palestinian and belong to the Palestinians who have the right to establish an independent state on them.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Will the PLO adopt specific steps to clarify the Palestinian opposition to any U.S. bias to Israel?

[Qaddumi] We have begun to take such measures. The Arab League has been active in this regard. It organized a meeting of the Arab ambassadors in Washington and formed a committee which began a dialogue with the U.S. Administration, explaining that the foundations on which the peace process rests must not be changed. Otherwise the process of political settlement would become flawed. The Arab group must also rally world opinion around the idea that Jerusalem belongs to the three religions and that East Jerusalem was occupied in 1967. The whole world recognizes this.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about the alternatives Palestinians have to tackle on the issue of Jerusalem—negotiating it in the final phase—and about the idea of internationalization that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] raised some time ago?

[Qaddumi] Abu-'Ammar has not called for internationalizing Jerusalem. These statements—if we can call them statements—were fabricated by a foreign news agency. Jerusalem in our view is part of the occupied Palestinian territories. I am referring to Arab Jerusalem; it is the capital of the Palestinian state. From the first moment, when we took part in the Madrid conference, [former U.S. Secretary of State] James Baker said that Jerusalem is part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. We are therefore mobilizing world public opinion to emphasize this fact. Our vision is that east Jerusalem must be the capital of the Palestinian state once it is proclaimed. It is impermissible for any party to anticipate matters and determine the fate of this city. Everyone should be committed to the texts of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions, which provide the basis for the political settlement President Bush suggested on the basis of Resolution 242. This resolution stresses the need to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967—east Jerusalem was occupied in 1967—and definitely shows that w atever is being said by the Israeli or American side in this connection is jumping ahead of events.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you expect the Israeli response to the disputed points in recent talks in Cairo—about the technical details concerning the deployment of Palestinian forces in Hebron—to be positive, or negative?

[Qaddumi] We know the policy Israel pursues and we know its negotiating approach; it procrastinates and equivocates. Shamir clearly said before that he wanted these talks to drag on for 10 years without taking a step forward. Rabin and the Labor Party use a more flexible language that deceives many world circles. He says that he wants to emphasize the security aspect in the occupied territories and that Israel gives top priority to the issue of security. He wants to blackmail the Palestinian

negotiator—as though it were Israel that is threatened—without committing himself to the Oslo agreement. He even says that these dates [not further specified] are not sacred.

After the ugly massacre—committed in Hebron through a conspiracy between the settlers and the Israeli Army—it was proved beyond a doubt that Rabin, who is in collusion with the army, shows by his statements that Israel does not want peace. All he seeks through these practices is to subjugate the Palestinian people and eat up the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He once again describes the Palestinian territories as Judea and Samaria. The al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre proved that it is we, and not the Israelis, who need security. The recent resolution, 904, demanded that protection for the Palestinian people be provided. This rebuts Israel's claim to protect its security against neighboring threats. The massacre has proven that Israel is the chief cause of tension, that it procrastinates and that it wants to devour the occupied territories. We reject that.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Therefore, you don't expect a positive Israeli response to the points of dispute concerning the deployment of the Palestinian forces in Hebron?

[Qaddumi] Israel is pursuing procrastination in the negotiations. They sometimes agree on certain points, but later on they disagree on these points. When we show flexibility and accept specific points, they consider this a gain and they try to gain more points. We reject this policy. They will make other proposals that run counter to the provisions that have been agreed upon. Israel procrastinates and it is not sincere. We have no confidence in its behavior.

[Abu-Sa'dah] During the Cairo negotiations concerning the deployment of the Palestinian forces in Hebron, Israel said that it will unilaterally deal with the settlers the way it sees fit. Do you believe that Israel will comply with its commitment concerning the issue of settlers?

[Qaddumi] Israel must clearly adopt measures in this regard. According to Resolution 904, Israel will disarm the settlers. Israel must eliminate the settlements that cause instability and obstruct the peace process.

Some settlements cause direct friction and provoke the Palestinian people. These settlements must be eliminated. There are 42 Israeli families, an Israeli school, and various centers in Hebron. All these meant to provoke 120,000 Arabs who live in the town and its suburbs. Many Israelis corroborated these facts and demanded that this Israeli presence be eliminated. Therefore, Israel must eliminate this. Israel adopted some measures, including the imposition of a curfew on Hebron and the occupied territories. This curfew must be lifted. Israel must also end the siege on the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, because these measures do not help create the appropriate atmosphere for starting the negotiations.

The United Nations must send enough international observers of various nationalities, such as Americans, Britons, Russians, and the French, so that the Palestinian people feel secure. These observers will supervise the questionable movements of the settlers.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Now that the two sides have agreed on several points regarding the Palestinian force, the deployment in Hebron, and the international presence, should the talks resume, do you expect Israel to withdraw by 13 April?

[Qaddumi] The question is not whether we are pessimistic or not. The point is that Israel does not comply with the agreement and does not honor the promises it makes, not even if there is international verification of Israel's promises. In the first place, Israel did not honor the Oslo agreement and did not withdraw on 13 December. Rabin even boasts that these dates are not sacred. Thus, for Israel, none of the points in the agreement are sacred and require long negotiations. Since the balance of power is in Israel's favor and it is the occupying power, it does what it likes. But the cosponsors of the conference must pressure Israel to implement this agreement in full; that is, the withdrawal must take place on time on 13 April and the last withdrawal must take place in June so that the elections can be held. They should have fully withdrawn from Gaza, but they came to Cairo to seek a bigger area for the settlements and to insist on their responsibility for security at the crossing points, although the internal security and the crossing points are two closely related issues. The crossing points are the responsibility of the internal security and they [the Israelis] are responsible for external security, which is a like a seasonal issue that arises in case of an aggression against the Israeli or Palestinian territories. They had an agreement with Egypt, so there is no threat. But they insist on interpreting the agreement the way they want and try to divest it of its real substance under the claim of security.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How would you describe the magnitude of the Palestinian rejectionists?

[Qaddumi] Everyone has the right to criticize, and the Palestinian people have the right to voice their opinion clearly. If I am one of those opposed to the Oslo agreement and the bad points in it, the others too have the right to object to it. But there are two kinds of opposition: The first is objective opposition. The second is non-objective opposition that involves insults. We are for the first. As to the question of the negotiations, we have accepted them as a political method to gain our rights, but resistance will continue as long as there is a single Israeli soldier in the occupied territories. We are entitled to defend ourselves and resist this occupation. So, we respect the constructive opposition as part of the national movement of the Palestinian people that plays its role the way it sees fit, and we cannot interfere in this. But we listen to criticism if it is constructive. If we believe it is correct, we must take it into consideration. We are going through a difficult peace process and tough negotiations and we do not have any other alternative. If we say we do not want negotiations, what would the

alternative be? It is true that the intifadah continues. We have entered the negotiations to cut back on immigrants, contain the settlement-building activity, and take part of our land, albeit gradually. All this is important because time is passing by, the settlements are built, and the immigrants are coming. The settlement process has caused these phenomena to abate with international pressure. We are committed to the political settlement, but we cannot resume the negotiations before Security Council Resolution 904 is implemented.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you think that Rabin's decision to consider Kakh and Kahane Hay as illegal terrorist organizations will affect the official conduct of the Israeli government and that settlers will abide by the rules to be imposed on them?

[Qaddumi] The trend of racism and building settlements is gaining strength day by day in Israel. This is what arouses our suspicion about Rabin's ability to enforce actual measures in a short time to prevent settlers from conducting acts of terrorism and violence against the Palestinian citizens. He will not be able to do that. Moreover, he does not want to take such measures. This is clear in his hesitation concerning the Oslo agreement. It showed on his face during the signing ceremony. He looked as though he had been dragged to Washington against his will by an U.S. order. This is the truth. This hesitation was reflected in his responsiveness to the Israeli army officers; he postponed withdrawal and began to impose unacceptable conditions during the negotiations that produced the foul Cairo agreement—the agreement that forced many restrictions on us.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Can you specify what these restrictions are?

[Qaddumi] Giving the Israelis control on pathways; their attempts to deploy more troops around settlements; granting more areas to settlements; giving settlers freedom of movement; cutting down the area of Jericho to less than 345 square km, the area stipulated in the 1932 administrative division under the British mandate; and other things they forced on us in violation of the agreement. Rabin does not have the will. In the meantime, he schemes with senior army officers. Peres said "we were negotiating with ourselves." In other words, there was a controversy among them on the stipulations of the Oslo and Cairo agreements—which Minister 'Amr Musa calls the Cairo declaration—because it was just initialed and not fully signed. This agreement awaits the other part of handing over authority to be complete.

Hence, we find that the measures Rabin is taking are superficial and absolutely do not create a favorable or relaxed atmosphere to keep up negotiations.

The ratio of those who support the Oslo agreement has dropped to less than 10 percent, if not five percent. How can such a leadership lead the masses when these masses do not back the agreement? That is all because of Yitzhaq Rabin. This gave Israeli fanatics cards to play and encouraged them to commit acts of violence and terrorism against the Palestinian people. Rabin has bet on the fanatics; he has become almost one of them.

[Abu-Sa'dah] You disapprove of the Oslo agreement, but how would you assess the peace process and the Palestinian negotiating method, both with the Israeli and U.S. parties?

[Qaddumi] What we see happening before us does not make us optimistic, something that will obstruct the peace march and create a tense atmosphere that may lead to an explosion in the entire Arab region. It will also affect Israeli society, where there are voices calling for removing many of the settlements, speeding up the withdrawal, and providing adequate security measures so that the Palestinians may feel that Israel is serious about peace. The differences within Israel will increase. Yitzhaq Rabin has concluded an agreement with Shas (an extremist religious party) under conditions that compromise the Oslo agreement as well as the political settlement.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How?

[Qaddumi] Rabin and Shas agreed on five conditions, allowing Shas to continue building the settlements, stating that they are against a Palestinian state, and that they will continue to establish settlements inside the occupied territories. We have submitted a memorandum to the United States and Russia on this recent Israeli agreement. Yitzhaq Rabin is still playing games, maneuvering, and procrastinating. This policy and attitude by Rabin will destroy the settlement and will increase tension to the point of explosion.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is the scenario that you think the Palestinian negotiators should follow in this delicate stage of the negotiations?

[Qaddumi] To insist on the political constants and on a comprehensive withdrawal, discuss the settlements today and not tomorrow so that measures can be taken to remove them, even if gradually; to hand over power to the Palestinians immediately, and to adopt immediate measures in the occupied territories in general and in Hebron in particular so that our people there can feel that there is a desire to establish peace.

[Abu-Sa'dah] It seems that the head of the PLO Political Department does not expect the self-rule talks to resume. Is this true?

[Qaddumi] That is a false statement. When we accepted the Madrid conference, the United States told us that something must be accomplished quickly, within one year: an interim self-government that is more than self-rule and less than independence. Thus, self-rule is rejected. There are twice the number of our people as compared to Israelis in Palestine, and this is clear. Thus, there must be sincerity in implementing this agreement so that it can be fully implemented in the end and an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence between us and the

Israelis can be created, not by creating obstacles, difficulties, and procrastinating like Rabin is doing.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has the Palestinian leadership started to discuss the question of authority in the next stage after getting a part of the land back in the first stage?

[Qaddumi] We have a popular saying in Arabic that we should cross the bridge when we get to it. We are not after authority. We just want our land back. We want our people, who were wrenched from that land in 1967, to return. That is our major concern. Another concern is to establish the pillars for the security and peace of our people. After that, we can think about the issue of authority. We are working on constructing our institutions inside the occupied territories so that the people can take on their responsibilities fully without any pressure or threats.

[Abu-Sa'dah] I would like to ask you, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, about the political map of the Palestinian street with its various parties and currents, and whether the Palestinian choice during the first stage will be political pluralism or whether this issue is not under discussion now.

[Qaddumi] From the beginning, there has to be free democratic government and free economy. Everyone opposing this course will be thrown outside it by history itself.

[Abu-Sa'dah] If you are thinking about pluralism, then you are proposing dissolving the PLO. Is this a possibility?

[Qaddumi] The PLO does not necessarily need to be dissolved. It is a haven for every Palestinian citizen and all the organizations and institutions of the Palestinian people. They have the right to stay within the PLO, and to discuss and practice their duties through the organization. It is also their right to explain and criticize every political decision in a constructive way that serves the national movement and cause.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But what will the PLO's situation be like with respect to the presence of political pluralism. What is the proposed form for political action now?

[Qaddumi] It is the rule of the national front. During the liberation phase, the national front will be formed. We insist on the participation of all parties in this front. They are our partners and have contributed toward the national struggle. They participated with us in decision-making. It is their right to work within the framework of this organization and to have their specific responsibilities.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Very often in writings about the question of Palestine and in talk among the Palestinian people, discussions touch on the dictatorship in Palestinian decisionmaking. How true is this and how can one avert it, if it is actually present?

[Qaddumi] In the stage of national struggle, central democracy is the prevalent principle. To a large extent, it is similar not to dictatorship, but is based on the national front which will run all affairs.

However, we are on the threshold of a new phase, during which we need to preserve freedom of speech and political pluralism, as well as freedom to criticize and freedom of choice for the Palestinian people. In other words, these democratic features need to be adopted and the people need to feel that. At the same time, we have all really started practicing them. The issue of democracy is very important and we should not close our eyes to it, to pluralism, or to free economy. In this way, we can contain any individual behavior. However, at this stage, while we are still scattered in all parts of the world, it is not easy for us to construct our permanent institutions. We are a nomadic revolution constantly on the move. When we settle on our land, we will build our permanent institutions and our democracy.

Such shortcomings will remain as long as we are dispersed. We should not be harder on ourselves than is necessary. We cannot hold general elections, and therefore we have to resort to other methods until we are able to give our people a choice. Our people are living under different conditions and in several countries. They are under political, economic, and social pressure because of their presence in those countries and they are affected by those pressures, either voluntarily or involuntarily. Some individual actions are caused by the absence of the true form of democratic unity.

Our conditions create many failings and make a lot of the actions of the leadership or individuals appear to be individualistic ones. This is the reality.

We should not evade this reality but confront it and continue our efforts in this organization and tell whoever acts unilaterally that they are acting unilaterally. If we look at the Arab region and the Third World, we can see that the leaderships there are not criticized as much as the Palestinian leadership. We are nearer to democracy in its unrefined term. We curse and exchange harsh words, therefore we are democrats. The abnormal conditions of our people have created these resentful ideas among the Palestinian people. We cannot change them until we get back to the territories and then tell our people: Be hard on your leadership because you are right in seeing we have made mistakes.

[Abu-Sa'dah] How much are you convinced of your remaining involved, when you are openly opposed to the Oslo agreement?

[Qaddumi] Being opposed to something does not mean running away from the battle, regardless of the price. The Palestinian cause is not served through statements or press writings. To reach a common concept, we must get together within the framework of the PLO and the establishment so as to have a dialogue because a dialogue will remain one-sided if it is held through newspapers and magazines.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What happened in the dialogue between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Qaddumi] No dialogue between us and Hamas has been held so far. This does not mean that we have not made mistakes. We have made mistakes. But the stage is really critical and we must overcome many of the mistakes made by this side and the other side. We must sit down and have a dialogue because interaction can only come through a lively direct dialogue. Many forces are trying to damage the PLO's credibility and its ability to lead the Palestinian people. We want all our brothers to participate in this dialogue even if they are opposed to the Oslo agreement.

This is the lesser of two evils, because the PLO has lost Arab aid and has been besieged politically, even by the Arabs as a result of the Damascus Declaration after the Gulf war. Some of us were of the opinion that we must get out of this predicament. Many of us opted for the Oslo agreement, which I oppose, as a way out of this dilemma. But as a responsible leader, I cannot leave the others to navigate through the Oslo agreement maze. I am a PLO official and I must be with them to express my views frankly and clearly.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Even if such views are not accepted?

[Qaddumi] Even if they are not accepted. However, many of my views are beginning to find acceptance. It is becoming clear that many brothers have begun to realize that they were wrong and that they were hasty in doing this or that. One of these mistakes was that we made promises to some Arab states, including Syria, for example, that we will take their views into consideration. But Clinton insisted very strongly that the agreement be signed on 13 September. Therefore, it was not our responsibility. We approached Syria and Jordan. As to the statement that everything was done secretly, the fact is that there were several chances for a breakthrough in the negotiations after they reached a deadlock. A breakthrough was essential. The brothers achieved this breakthrough in the Oslo agreement. They made an effort. But it is not true to say that we lost everything, and that the Arab nation has lost the military option. The Arab nation was in a deep sleep. We had to have a breakthrough to bring about Israeli withdrawal. Enemy withdrawal from any inch of land is a positive thing. If negotiations were suspended, then immigration to Israel, the building of settlements, and intra-Israeli accord would have continued—a significant matter. We have created conflict among the Israelis, and this will undermine Israel from within.

First Group of Deportees To Leave Cairo for Gaza

NC0404184794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Official Palestinian sources have stated that the first group of political deportees, whose return Israel has approved, will leave Cairo for the Gaza Strip tomorrow, Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced earlier that Israel has consented to the return of 48 deportees.

Their return is part of the confidence-building measures between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples after the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington on 13 December 1993.

[In a related, Tunis-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 1734 GMT on 4 April adds the following: "Seventeen Palestinian exiles left here Monday bound for their homes in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank.

["The 17 were part of a group of 46 Palestinians allowed to return under an Israeli-PLO security accord signed in Cairo last Thursday. They will travel via Jordan and Egypt.

["Six of the Palestinians flew in to Tunis earlier Monday.

["The 11 others had lived in Tunisia since being expelled for belonging to the mainstream Fatah faction led by Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and participating in the intifadah, or uprising, in the occupied territories.

["Five will return to the West Bank from Jordan via the Allenby bridge and the other 12 will enter Gaza from Egypt."]

Return of 3 'Arafat Aides Vetoed

JN0504101594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—A last-minute veto by Israel prevented the return of three Palestinian expellees close to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir 'Arafat from joining 43 other expellees who return to the occupied territories today.

Scaled down from a list of 49 whom Israel was allowing to return as part of an agreement with the PLO, the 43 expellees, along with up to 25 family members, will enter the West Bank and Gaza today via Jordan and Egypt.

"Twenty-seven deportees will leave Jordan for the occupied territories on Tuesday," confirmed 'Umar Khatib, deputy chief to the PLO's mission in Amman. "They will take their families with them. The other 16 deportees in Egypt will enter Gaza from Egypt, also on Tuesday," Mr. Khatib added.

Two expellees allowed to return to the West Bank by Israel left to the occupied territories on Monday on their own and another, Mursi Abu-Ghuwaylah, is in the United states and will return later, said officials at the PLO mission in Amman.

"The list we received today did not include the names of Akram Haniyah, Jibril Rujub and Muhammad Dahlan," said Mr. Khatib.

The return to the occupied territories of Mr. Haniyah, senior advisor to Mr. 'Arafat on occupied territories' affairs, was reportedly blocked by Israeli negotiators in Cairo. "The Israelis felt that Haniyah was too senior, too close to Chairman 'Arafat to go in this early," one PLO official in Amman told THE JORDAN TIMES.

Mr. Rujub and Mr. Dahlan are also close to the PLO leadership in Tunis, where they were until Monday night, according to PLO officials in Amman. They were seen by the Israelis as "too close to the leadership to return at this time," one official said.

"The three men are still in Tunis. Therefore we don't expect any last-minute changes," said Mr. Khatib.

Mr. Rujub is from Hebron, where dozens of Palestinians were gunned down by a fanatic settler on Feb. 25. Mr. Dahlan directs Fatah military operation in his native Gaza Strip from his exile in Tunis.

All three men are expected to exercise influence on behalf of Mr. 'Arafat and his Fatah factions in their respective areas once they are allowed to return home. According to reports from the occupied territories the popularity of Mr. 'Arafat has been waning since the Hebron massacre. [passage omitted]

PFLP, DFLP on 'Discrimination' in Deportees' Return

JN0404183694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] issued two statements today in which they condemned the discrimination in the return of the Palestinian deportees. The two fronts noted that all the deportees who will return to the occupied territory are affiliated with the Fatah Movement and its supporters.

Iran's Rowhani Meets With Rejectionist Officials

JN0404184394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Iranian parliamentary delegation led by Iranian Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Rowhani conferred in Damascus today with the representatives of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces opposed to the self-rule accord, who are seeking Iranian support for their factions. This was announced by a Palestinian source who said that the Iranian official reiterated Tehran's support for the Palestinian intifadah and its opposition to the agreements concluded by the PLO and Israel. [passage omitted]

Algeria

FIS Denies Pledge To Halt Violence, Armed Action

JN0404163394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[By Jamal Khashuqji from Jeddah; Algerian names as published]

[Excerpt] The dissolved Algerian group of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has asserted that it has not pledged to halt violence.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Committee operating abroad, has said, in the first press statement since the German authorities ordered him to halt his political activities, that FIS leaders have not made any commitments to President Zeroual to halt "armed action." He added that FIS leaders have not made any decision in this regard contingent upon consultations with free FIS leaders.

The FIS reaction came less than 24 hours after the Algerian Presidential Office announced that Major General Zeroual had held personal contacts with the jailed FIS leaders, who asked Sheiks Ali Jedi and Abd el Qader Bou Khamkham to work to stop the violence.

In a related development, informed Algerian sources informed AL-HAYAH that the Algerian Army continues to "initiate" battles with armed group members, and that it is waging "a calculated" war against them. The Army's withdrawal from a certain area, the sources continued, does not mean that it is incapable of confronting these groups. Any military move hinges upon a full-blown and calculated plan, the sources maintained.

The sources declined to delve into military details. Nonetheless, they underscored the Army's cohesion, unity, and ability to keep things under control. They noted that the Army is currently engaged in large-scale pursuit operations against gunmen. [passage omitted]

FIS Accuses Authorities of 'Wave of Killings'

NC0104143894 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Text] Paris, April 1 (AFP)—The banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has accused Algerian authorities of killing more than 200 civilians during anti-terrorist sweeps over the past few days, according to a statement received here Friday.

The head of the FIS abroad, Rabah Kebir, who normally lives in Germany, called on international human rights organisations to condemn what he said was a wave of killings.

A number of anonymous callers have also phoned AFP in Paris over the past few days to denounce what they say have been "kidnappings" and "killings" by the army.

"Amongst the many examples of barbarity (...), one notes over the past few days the assassination of 82 civilians in Blida, south of Algiers, of 120 others between Meftah and Sidi Moussa, east of Algiers," said the statement dated March 31.

"Not a day goes by without word of collective killings across the country (...) people are taken from their homes and then assassinated, slaughtered and their bodies abandoned in the streets to create an atmosphere of fear amongst the population," the statement said.

Women are also victims of such "institutional terrorism", the statement said, referring to the killing of two women wearing the Islamic veil at Boudaouaou, east of Algiers, on Tuesday.

Anonymous telephone callers said they had witnessed the "execution" of at least 10 people Wednesday at Les Eucalyptus, an Islamic fundamentalist stronghold in the southeast suburbs of Algiers.

The callers said the 10 were killed in reprisal for the death of 10 soldiers and para-military police caught in an ambush.

One caller said he had seen a man deliberately "run over" by a tank on the main street of Les Eucalyptus.

Algerian authorities have blamed the FIS for a wave of terrorist attacks in the country since January 1992 when general elections the Islamists were poised to win were annulled.

Over 300 Foreigners Arrested in Tamanrasset

LD2703224294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] The security servives in the province of Tamanrasset today announced that they have arrested more than 300 people of foreign nationality during the combing operations which the security forces recently carried out in a number of quarters of the capital of Hoggar. The security services added that those persons were residing illegally in Algeria. The services pointed out that most of those arrested are perverts who carry out unlawful practices, including trading in drugs and armed robbery, as well as money dealings, as they have not presented any identity documents. During this day-long combing operation, in which joint forces of the army, police, gendarmerie, and customs participated, more than 1100 tins of Lahda [powdered] milk and baby milk, and more than 2000 packs of cigarettes - all of which were going to be smuggled to neighboring states - were seized.

Egypt

Syrian President Arrives for 'Surprise' Summit

Peace Process on Agenda

NC0404105694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1040 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] In a new development concerning the Middle East peace process, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has arrived in Cairo for a surprise summit with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. An official Egyptian source said the two presidents will discuss the Middle East peace process.

Cairo Radio Confirms al-Asad Visit

NC0404115394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation arrived in Cairo a short while ago on a visit to Egypt during which he will discuss with President Mubarak developments in the Middle East and the peace process in the region.

Mubarak, al-Asad Discuss Issues

NC0404131394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a round of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif, and Egypt's Ambassador to Syria Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddamm, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syria's Ambassador in Egypt 'Isa Darwish.

Egyptian Envoy Comments

NC0404151794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Egypt's ambassador to Damascus, has made a statement at the conclusion of the first round of talks between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Cairo today. He pointed out that the two Arab leaders are discussing the various aspects of the peace process and the obstacles facing it, since it is a major and pivotal issue. He added that the two leaders are also discussing a number of other issues of common interest as well as some pan-Arab issues, including the situation in Yemen and the ongoing efforts to achieve stability there.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz added that the two presidents will meet again this evening to complete their discussion of issues of common interest. During the evening session, the two leaders are expected to review all matters related to bilateral relations between the two countries and assess what has been achieved during the meetings of the Egyptian-Syrian higher joint committee, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz described Egyptian-Syrian relations as excellent and said they are proceeding normally with no problems. Every now and then, he added, these ties need to be reviewed to give them momentum.

President Mubarak will host a dinner banquet in honor of President al-Asad and his accompanying delegation this evening. The two leaders are expected to hold a news conference at the end of their talks, which may last until tomorrow morning.

Mubarak, al-Asad Meet Privately

NC0404193394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad resumed their talks at a closed meeting in the Presidential Office this evening.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the two leaders resumed their talks on developments in the peace process and ongoing contacts among the Arab parties, Israel, and the parties concerned with the Middle East issue.

He added that the talks dealt with the Arab stance and regional and international issues, including the situation in Somalia and recent developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The information minister added that the summit talks reflected the identical views of both leaders on regional and world issues and were marked by mutual understanding and a desire to serve the greater Arab interests.

The closed meeting continued for two hours and 15 minutes, after which the members of the Syrian and Egyptian delegations joined the two leaders in an expanded meeting.

The two leaders later resumed their talks over a dinner banquet hosted by President Mubarak for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the accompanying delegation. Senior state officials attended the dinner.

The Egyptian and Syrian delegations held talks cochaired by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The talks dealt with convening the Egyptian-Syrian Higher Committee and the issues that will be discussed within the framework of strengthening bilateral cooperation. The two sides also assessed the progress made recently in several areas.

Damascus Radio Details Cairo Talks

JN0504081494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak yesterday convened three sessions of talks, one closed, to discuss the Middle East peace process, and the efforts being made to achieve the objective set for it. They also discussed Arab and world issues. The following message from the media team accompanying President al- Asad on his Egyptian visit:

[Begin recording] Their Excellencies Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak held a closed session at 1900 Damascus time yesterday at the permanent headquarters of the Egyptian Presidency. This was followed by a plenary session attended, alongside the presidents, by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo. The talks were also joined by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egypt's ambassador in Damascus.

The presidents had held an expanded session upon the arrival of President al-Asad in Cairo yesterday afternoon. Syrian Vice President Khaddam, Foreign Minister al-Shar', and the Syrian ambassador in Cairo attended the talks. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Defense Minister Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The three sessions considered the peace process and the efforts being made to promote its set objective and contacts being undertaken to advance that goal. Arab and international issues, including those related to the Nonaligned Movement, were also discussed.

President Mubarak last night hosted a dinner banquet at the Egyptian Presidency for President al-Asad and his delegation, to which top Egyptian civilian and military officers were invited.

President al-Asad arrived in Cairo at 1345 yesterday. The Egyptian president led the welcoming party at the airport. [end recording]

Mubarak, al-Asad Talks Resume 5 Apr

NC0504090194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0833 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad resumed their talks at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning.

Last night the two leaders held intensive talks on current international and regional issues of common concern, including the Arab-Israeli peace talks and efforts to accelerate the peace process, and recent developments on the Arab scene.

Mubarak Discusses National Dialogue With NDP Members

NC0404145994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif after President Husni Mubarak's meeting with members of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] Political Bureau in Cairo on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] During his meeting with members of the NDP Political Bureau, the president discussed the working papers of the national dialogue and the results of the meetings that took place between the NDP and leaders of the Egyptian political parties. These papers contained the viewpoints, ideas, and concepts of the Egyptian parties on the national dialogue from the perspective of the objectives and mechanisms of this dialogue.

During this meeting, President Mubarak affirmed many principles. First, that national dialogue is a dialogue among all the political parties and the constitutional institutions in which intellectuals, thinkers, unions, federations, and universities take part. Second, that the National Democratic Party is a party to this dialogue. It cannot impose opinions on it. Its responsibility, as the party of the majority, is to provide the opportunity for the dialogue to succeed and to make available to every side all the information and statements regarding the issues open for discussion. All the political, economic, and social issues of the homeland are open to dialogue for the present and future of Egypt. So that the call for the dialogue starts off on the right course, President Mubarak has decided to form a minicommittee called the Committee To Prepare for National Dialogue. It will include 25 members selected by the president from among the leaders of the political parties, unions, intellectuals, and those who have an opinion. The committee will state its views on:

1. Identifying the general committee for national dialogue and the names of those personalities who are expected to be invited to join in the national dialogue.
2. Proposing the objectives and issues of national dialogue.
3. Studying the method of action of this general committee, or general congress, as well as its subcommittees, specializations, the method of convening it, and the administration of its meetings.
4. Proposing and providing the groundwork for the statements that should be made available to serve the issues the national dialogue will address.
5. Proposing a venue for the general congress and the various committees of the national dialogue.

President Mubarak will invite the members of the Committee To Prepare for National Dialogue to a meeting when he returns from his upcoming visit to Japan and China.

Palestinian Exile Group Leaves for Gaza

NC0504084394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The first group of Palestinian exiles left Cairo for Gaza this morning. According to Palestinian sources, the group is made up of 20 people who were deported in or after 1969.

Palestinian Troops Head to Border Town

NC0504093194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian military sources told MENA that 100 PLO troops left today for the Egyptian border town of Rafah. There the troops will prepare a camp in which Palestinian troops coming from various destinations will assemble before heading to Gaza through the Rafah crossing point.

The sources said that the camp will serve as a point of assembly of a Palestiniain police force that will deploy in Gaza as soon as the PLO and Israel sign an agreement to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Interior Minister on Plans To 'Eradicate' Terrorists

NC0304142194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the security agencies are keeping up their irreversible course in fighting terrorism without hesitation. He added that the Egyptian mass media have exposed what these groups are doing behind the scenes through the confessions of some of their members who came to their senses and returned to society's ranks.

Speaking at a celebration at the police academy today to mark the day of learning, al-Alfi said that these groups have plenty of secret undertakings, which will soon be publicized to expose the truth about this misguided bunch.

Al-Alfi added that the security agencies will not rest until they have eradicated the remnants of these terrorist elements who have turned terrorizing society into a profitable trade and way of life.

He emphasized that the security agencies are finished with the policy of action and reaction and will take the initiative to eradicate these elements in their hideouts to protect society.

During the celebration, excelling leaders and learners at the Interior Ministry were rewarded.

Eleven 'Extremists' Arrested; Letters, Weapons Seized

NC0304162394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, 3 Apr (MENA)—The security forces in Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt, arrested 11 dangerous extremists wanted for justice during raids today on Kawm 'Abbas, al-Walidiyah, al- Hamra', Nazlat 'Abdallah, and al-Arba'in in the city of Asyut.

With the extremists, the forces found letters sent to them by their leaders abroad, instructing them to carry out terrorist operations and assassinations in the coming days.

The security forces seized 18 weapons, including five automatic rifles and guns; 11 revolvers; and 6,600 rounds of ammunition.

'Active Terrorist' Killed by Police in Upper Egypt

NC0204123694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 2 Apr (MENA)—Hamdi Rashwan, an active terrorist, was killed in an exchange of gunfire with the security forces in Bani Sumay', in Asyut Governorate's Abu Tij District early today.

Asyut's security departments, actively involved in campaigns to arrest fugitive terrorists, received information that a terrorist was staying at a hideout in Abu Tij. When the security forces went to arrest him, he opened fire on them. They fired back, killing him.

The automatic weapon which the terrorist Hamdi Rashwan used against the security forces was captured. It transpired that he was wanted in connection with several cases of assault against the police.

The Prosecutor's Office was informed of the clash and it ordered an autopsy. Following an examination of the scene of the incident, the Prosecutor's Office also retained the terrorist's weapon and the spent cartridges.

Sudan

Government Order Closes AL-SUDANI AL-DUWALI

EA0404200594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Statement issued by the Presidency of the Republic; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brother citizens, the National Salvation Revolution was begun in the defense of this homeland, which had been overwhelmed by the dangers of fragmentation and infighting. National unity was threatened and the economy was in a state of collapse and stagnation. Corruption and nepotism were rampant because of the weakness of the rulers and the

absence of a true course and higher ideals. Further fuel was added to the fire by party differences and improper press practices linked to private benefits and foreign interests.

The principles of the National Salvation Revolution were opposed to all that. It replaced division with unity. Defense and the struggle for the sake of God and the homeland replaced caution and surrender to enemies. It raised aloft the ideals of purity and impartiality over and above corruption. It raised aloft the banner of the brilliant Islamic law in place of a confused and baffled course. It worked to establish a new society guided by clear ideals linked to heaven.

The revolution established institutions for popular and political work and embarked on policies for reforming the economy, the education sector and society. The ship sailed on, guided by God, confident of victory despite storms, challenges, and trials.

When the revolution provided opportunities for consultation and advice, it issued regulations, but some people, whose minds were narrowed against the revolution and who hated it, thought that their opportunity had come to achieve their dreams and the dreams of those who supported them, to drag the country back to the hated and painful past. Among these was the newspaper AL-SUDANI AL-DUWALI, which gathered a clique blinded by the brilliance of money which was generously given to them, and by the fear of the foreigner whom they thought was God disposing of the universe. They were also friendly to the alliances and the ghosts of the past, which feed on illusions and live on mirages.

The paper permits its pens to harm the noblest causes of the homeland in the struggle and defense of its creed and unity. It raises doubts about the purpose and the struggle of the Armed Forces and the popular defense forces. It calls for the separation and negligence of the unity of the country, for which many martyrs have fallen and colored with their pure blood.

The martyrs march forward, liberating every inch of the country until they attain victory—and they will attain it, God willing.

These journalists have worked to fragment national unity by raising doubts about the option of the people and the revolution, about the political system and the popular and constitutional bodies. They have called for a return to parties, sectarianism, and tribal conflict. They have waged a psychological war against the Armed Forces and the other regular forces, falsely accusing some of them on having committed excesses and oppression, and denigrating the strength of others in so far as the protection of the citizens and their property were concerned.

They resorted to magnifying simple incidents with the intention of influencing the security of citizens and the homeland. They then raised the charge of corruption and spread rumors, without providing any evidence or proof, in spite of the call made by the minister of justice, the attorney general, stressing the revolution's readiness and its firm commitment to establish the truth and to punish anyone whose criminality was proved. They intended by these acts to harm the revolution and its noblest intentions, namely righteousness and impartiality.

Finally they crowned all this with a premeditated design to kill respect for the revolution and its symbols. They became arrogant without any justification, committed excesses without any proof, and made allegations without any evidence.

Brothers, the revolution has promised God, then its people, to go to the end of the road to achieve clear victory and God's favor. It has proffered martyrs as evidence of its sincerity and a sign of devotion, and will not retreat or withdraw. God willing out of fear, nor will it bow before anyone other than God. [sentence as heard]

An order has been issued in accordance with emergency rules to close this newspaper. The organs concerned will call to account all those who have exceeded the bounds and overstepped the limits. Those who have done wrong shall know the end they will meet. God is great, glory to Islam, God is great, victory to Sudan.

Tunisia

Joint Statement Issued After Ben Ali-Zeroual Meeting

LD0404201094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Algerian President Liamine Zeroual left Tunisia this afternoon after a two-day official visit at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He was seen off on departure from Tunis-Carthage international airport by the president.

Following the visit, a joint statement was issued. The statement said that during the visit, in which the Algerian president was accompanied by an important delegation, the two presidents held comprehensive talks where the spirit of understanding and friendship and the belief in a common destiny prevailed. The talks showed much harmony in the points of view on bilateral, regional, and international matters discussed.

Regarding bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and promoting them on the basis of the strong political will of the two leaderships, the two presidents praised the achievements made in the process of enlarging existing spheres of fruitful common cooperation and their diversification in a way that will serve the aspirations of the two brotherly Algerian and Tunisian peoples and achieve their longing for more development and strength in a climate of solidarity and integration.

The two presidents noted with great satisfaction what the two brotherly countries achieved in the border demarcation issue and considered it a great achievement embodying the spirit of brotherhood and good neighborliness that built a strong bridge of fruitful cooperation and interaction between the two countries in faithfulness to their common history.

Presidents Ben Ali and Zeroual hailed the creation of several economic and social joint projects, particularly within the framework of the development of areas on the borders between the two countries. They stressed their determination to carry on bolstering this fruitful cooperation and their eagerness to guarantee the viability of the joint projects and make the Maghreb Bank for Cooperation an effective instrument to finance these projects. In this context, they agreed to convene the 11th session of the Higher Tunisian-Algerian Joint Committee in September 1994. The two presidents also stressed their strong commitment to the progress of the two countries on the path of democracy, pluralism, the promotion of human rights, and the establishment of the civil society by preserving the constituents of the Arab and Islamic identity and promoting values of tolerance that are the pride of the Muslim religion—distinct from all aspects of fanaticism, isolation, and extremism. The joint Tunisian-Algerian statement added that in their review of the progress of the building of the Arab Maghreb Union, the two heads of state blessed the important steps the Union had made.

They extolled the new push the sixth session of the Presidential Council had given to the Maghreb march. They reaffirmed their determination to continue to support the Maghreb edifice as the best way to rise to the challenges that are thrown up by the developments on the international stage and to embody the ambitions of the Maghreb peoples toward progress and invulnerability in the shadow of solidarity, integration, and merger.

Regarding the situation on the Arab and international levels, the presidents renewed their concern over the continuation of the crisis between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and some Western states. They stressed the need to work together to find a peaceful, just, and honorable solution to this crisis; a solution that will secure the interests of all sides on the basis of respect for international legitimacy and safeguard the Libyan people's sovereignty and dignity. They reaffirmed the importance of continuing efforts to rebuild trust and harmony in Arab relations and to establish firm and stable foundations for these ties based on respect for the sovereignty of countries, their choices, and the well-being of their entities and cooperation to utilize all these resources to serve joint interests.

They also confirmed their full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate rights, which include self-determination and setting up their independent state on their land, with Jerusalem as its capital. They denounced the barbaric massacres, particularly the Hebron mosque massacre, committed against the Palestinian people.

Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Liamine Zeroual confirmed the importance of solidarity between Arab and African peoples and the effective role of the Arab League and the OAU to boost and develop cooperation to serve joint interests.

They noted with optimism the steps achieved to lift the apartheid regime from the people of South Africa and to lay the foundations for a new epoch based on a just, democratic, and multiracial system.

The two heads of states expressed their deep interest in coordinating positions on security and cooperation with Mediterranean countries. They said they supported the initiative calling on Arab states overlooking the Mediterranean sea to coordinate between them to reach a unified stand reflecting their interest in making peace and tranquility prevail in this region.

The Tunisian-Algerian joint statement added that the two presidents welcomed their talks on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the agreement between Bosnian Muslims and Croats, saying it was the first step toward ending the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They stressed the necessity that international and UN efforts continue to ward off Serb attacks, protect the sovereignty of country—which is a member of the United Nations—and preserve the right of its people to exist and live in peace and security.

President Liamine Zeroual expressed his admiration for Tunisia's revival in all fields under the wise leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

He invited President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to go on an official visit to Algeria. The invitation was accepted and a date will be set later.

Authorities Ban Sales of French Daily

LD0204134594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Following the ban on LE MONDE, the Tunisian authorities have now decided to ban the sale of the French daily LIBERATION. It is accused of publishing articles considered hostile to Tunisia.

Oman

Yemen's Salih Comments on Visit Before Departure

JN0404114194 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpts] His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in fraternal Yemen, left the country this morning at the end of a two-day visit to the sultanate.

During the visit, his excellency the Yemeni leader held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on fraternal relations, and ways to boost bilateral cooperation to serve and safeguard the interests of the two fraternal people. The discussions also dealt with the developments in the Republic of Yemen, and the sultanate's role in approximating viewpoints among the parties to the conflict in a manner that will safeguard the Republic of Yemen as a united entity, and the security and stability of the fraternal Yemeni people and all the people in the region.

The talks also dealt with issues of mutual interest and the developments on the regional and international level. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Lt. Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said he is pleased with the results of his visit to the sultanate and with the positive talks he held with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and which were an opportunity to hold consultations on all that would enhance the fraternal and cordial relations between the two countries.

In a statement to the Oman News Agency, his excellency said: During this visit, we discussed the developments of the political crisis in our country in light of the good efforts his majesty the sultan is making in addition to many issues which are of interest to our two fraternal countries, the region, and the Arab nation.

His excellency said: I take this opportunity to reiterate thanks and appreciation in my name and on behalf of the Yemeni leadership, government, and people to the Sultanate of Oman—leader, government, and people for the good offices it has been making to help us in Yemen overcome the crisis and the challenges it poses and safeguard the march of unity and stability in our country that will contribute to enhancing security, stability, and peace in the region.

Concluding his statement, his excellency said his country is eager to enhance relations of amity, cooperation, and coordination with the Sultanate of Oman because the eternal and solid bonds that exist between the two countries dictate that we preserve the ties of brotherhood and good neighborliness and work for constantly expanding the scopes of understanding and integration in the interest of both our people and Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Yemen's al-Bid Departs Muscat 4 Apr

JN0404142394 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council in fraternal Yemen, left the country at noon today at the end of a two-day visit to the Sultanate.

During the visit, His Excellency 'Ali Salim al-Bid met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Said to review the overall developments in Yemen and the ongoing efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis. They also discussed fraternal relations and ways to boost and develop these relations. Al-Bid was seen off at Salalah Civil Airport by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab Al Sa'id, personal representative of his majesty the sultan. [passage omitted]

Omani Minister Comments on Talks

JN0404151194 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that during the tripartite meeting among His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and his deputy 'Ali Salim al- Bid in Salalah yesterday, discussions dealt with the dimensions of the Yemeni political crisis. His excellency described this meeting as cordial.

In an exclusive statement to the Omani News Agency, his excellency Bin-'Abdallah said that after the tripartite meeting, a closed meeting was held between the Yemeni president and his deputy. He said that from a personal perspective, the meeting between the two sides was cordial, warm, and friendly. It seems, he added, that during the closed meeting, the two sides agreed on some principles that they believe to be necessary to prevent any military confrontations or a civil war in Yemen. They entrusted a committee from the two sides with drafting a statement that expresses this orientation and these principles. However, for reasons that we do not known, but which could be related to the stands of the three major parties, in view of the known differences already declared by all parties to the Yemeni crisis, members of the two sides could not agree on issuing such a statement during their meeting this morning.

In his statement, his excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs added that, in light of the lack of agreement between the commands of the Yemeni parties, despite the orientation of the president and his deputy to evade the disasters of the crisis, it seems that the commands of the parties have not reached an agreement yet, especially regarding the military issues.

In this regard, his excellency said: In the Sultanate of Oman, we hope that contacts between the parties to the Yemeni crisis will continue through Yemeni initiatives.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said: In light of this situation, we should hold consultations with our brothers in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to end our participation in the joint military committee under these circumstances in which the committee cannot assume its role with regard to the remaining minutes and meetings. His excellency added: This is caused by the contradiction in the political stands among the parties to the Yemeni crisis, particularly the three major parties.

His excellency said: If no political progress is achieved among the major parties, the military committee will not be able to work, and consequently, consultations with the Jordanian side is necessary.

His excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs noted that the brothers in Yemen should rely on their political efforts first and must take into consideration the circumstances in this difficult phase, the level of responsibility, and the size of tragedies if, God forbids, the crisis develops contrary to the interests of Yemen.

His excellency stressed that his majesty the sultan was very concerned during this meeting to help Yemen overcome this crisis, or at least, achieve a breakthrough. The minister said: I can say that a breakthrough on the personal level between the president and the vice president has occurred. However, he added, the breakthrough on the level of the three party leaderships needs time and determination to overcome this obstacle.

His excellency expressed his belief that the endeavor should be Yemeni-Yemeni first and that the party leaders must be able to follow the sound path, forget difficulties, and give up their conflicting demands because it will be difficult to achieve any progress on any political track.

Government Official Says Yemeni Talks Failed

NC0404150694 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Muscat, April 4 (AFP)—Yemen's rival leaders, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, failed to settle their political dispute during talks in Salalah south of here, an Omani government official said Monday.

"It appears the two sides have still not reached agreement, especially on military matters," Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah [name as received] told reporters.

Salih and al-Bid met on Sunday in the Omani city of Salalah—their first meeting since they signed a reconciliation accord in Amman on February 20 calling for widespread reforms.

Omani television showed the northern and southern leaders, who have been embroiled in a dispute since last August over the running of their country, embracing and relaxing at a dinner hosted by Sultan Qabus.

Bin-'Abdallah said Oman may pull out of a commission set up jointly with Jordan to try to implement the military clauses of the reconciliation accord.

North and South Yemen were united in May 1990 but their armies have not been merged and the south has called for decentralization.

The accord said the opposing armies should be redeployed and military checkpoints removed from certain areas.

At least 20 people were killed in clashes which broke out soon after it was signed.

Bin-'Abdallah said Oman would have to consult with Jordan, "to halt our involvement in the military commission, because it can no longer fulfill its role."

The commission could not function "without any political progress," he said.

"The Yemenis must make efforts themselves, the party leaders must resolve the difficulties and make concessions for there to be political progress."

The minister said the military commission's work was obstructed by divisions between the three ruling parties in Yemen's coalition government.

Salih heads the General People's Congress, while al-Bid is leader of the Aden-based Yemen Socialist Party, which ruled former Marxist South Yemen. The third party is parliamentary speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar's Muslim militant movement Al-Islah.

Al-Bid has refused to take up his duties in Sanaa since the dispute erupted.

Salih arrived in Doha Monday for his first visit to Qatar since the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

He was met at the airport by the Amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al-Thani.

Relations between the two countries soured over Yemen's pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis which followed the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Al-Bid left Oman for Aden Monday, the official Omani news agency said.

More than 40 deputies began a sit-in at the Yemeni parliament in Sanaa Monday after it was announced that the talks in Oman had failed.

A participant said the protest was "against any split or attempt to undermine unity" in the country.

Other deputies were due to join the sit-in later Monday, he said.

Minister Comments

NC0404154194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The talks held in Oman between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid have failed to resolve the differences between them, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, stated today at the end of the second round of talks between the two leaders.

Oman has hosted the talks between Salih and al-Bid as part of the Arab efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis.

Qatar

Yemen's Salih Arrives in Doha, Makes Statement 4 Apr

JN0404132094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Yemeni Presidential Council chairman, arrived in Doha Airport at 1230 today on a visit to the sisterly State of Qatar.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, led those who received brother President Salih. [passage omitted on reception ceremony]

President Salih made a statement to the press in which he said: I am pleased to visit the sisterly State of Qatar and to meet with my brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar.

During this visit, we will discuss several issues that concern our warm fraternal relations and the spheres of cooperation between our two sisterly countries. I am satisfied with the continuous progress in these relations, which reflects the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples. Discussions will also deal with regional developments and issues that concern the region and the Arab nation.

During this visit, I will brief my brother Shaykh Khalifah on developments in our country and the efforts made to overcome the political crisis that is endangering unity and stability in our country. We appreciate the efforts the brothers are making toward bolstering Yemeni unity in its capacity as a pan-Arab achievement that should be preserved in order to entrench peace and stability in the region.

I express the appreciation of our country—its leadership, government, and people—for our brothers in Qatar, led by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah, for their fraternal positions toward our country, and their pan-Arab eagerness to safeguard the Yemeni unity.

We appreciate the Qatari brothers' support for development in Yemen, which is something that demonstrates the depth of warm fraternal bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Salih Meets Expatriate Community

JN0404191794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Brother Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at his place of residence at the Guest House in Doha this evening representatives of the Yemeni Community Council in the fraternal State of Qatar.

The representatives of the Yemeni community expressed their happiness over this meeting with the brother president in their second home, Qatar. They briefed him on the situation of the Yemeni community in Qatar, and also on the care and hospitality accorded to them by the Qatari Government under His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. They praised the fraternal ties that bind them to the fraternal Qataris—officials and people. They expressed their confidence that this visit will contribute toward promoting and enhancing the ties between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

The representatives of the Yemeni community in Qatar also expressed concern over the current political situation in the homeland. They reiterated their adherence to our people's national constants, foremost among which are unity, democracy, and stability.

Brother Presidential Council Chairman Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih spoke to them. He expressed his great happiness over his meeting with his compatriots in their second home, Qatar. He appreciated the strong patriotic sentiments they expressed toward their homeland, toward its unity, and toward the problems plaguing the country due to the ongoing crisis.

The brother president paid tribute to the positive stands of the Yemeni expatriates in general, and the expatriates in Qatar in particular, especially since their conduct reflects the Yemenis' nobility, as well as their cultural and humane values. He urged them to make greater efforts to promote and enhance their ties with their Qatari brothers, and to do their best to reinforce these fraternal ties to epitomize the ties of kinship between them and their Qatari brothers, given the fact that they are representatives of their people and homeland.

The brother president also addressed the current developments in the homeland, and the challenges posed to Yemeni unity and the Yemeni people. He reaffirmed his confidence that our people are, God willing, capable of coping with these challenges, thanks to their cohesion, solidarity, and unshakable faith in Yemeni unity, which is the people's destiny and fate.

The brother president added: I am confident that our people, who have managed to cope with the challenges

that faced the Yemeni revolution [words indistinct], are capable of coping with the current challenges posed to unity in the same spirit, and with the same zeal and (?faith).

The meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying the brother Presidential Council chairman on his current visit to the State of Qatar.

Yemen

Salih Threatens To Use Force Against Southern Leaders

NC0404193794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The efforts to solve Yemen's political crisis have suffered a serious setback. Oman has announced that the talks that Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id sponsored between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his vice president 'Ali Salim al-Bid have failed to end their differences. As a result, Oman threatened to withdraw from the multinational disengagement committee that is supposed to oversee the disengagement of the opposing Yemeni military units.

The failure of the talks in Salalah raised immediate fears in Sanaa that a Yemeni civil war might erupt.

Both President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, who saw him off, looked somber when he departed Salalah Airport at noon today.

Sources of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, said that when President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left his meeting with al-Bid today, he threatened to use force against the leaders of south Yemen, whom he accused of dragging the country toward partition.

YSP sources denied this accusation and declared that Sanaa's policy of oppression and its attempt to exercise hegemony over the south, as the sources put it, is the real threat to the country's unity.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin- 'Abdallah stated that President Salih and Vice President al-Bid failed to solve their differences during a second meeting in Salalah today. He explained that they could not agree on the wording of a statement calling for calm in the country, particularly where military matters are concerned. The Omani minister announced that his country will consult with Jordan over its wish to end its participation in the joint military committee charged with the task of disengaging hostile Yemeni forces unless there is political progress among Yemen's major political parties.

Following the meeting in Salalah, al-Bid returned to Aden. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made a brief visit to Qatar, during which he met with the amir, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, and senior Qatari officials.

Meanwhile, about 40 Yemeni deputies began a sit-in at the House of Representatives in Sanaa' to protest the country's 7-month political crisis and the failure of the Oman-sponsored talks.

'Source' Denies Salih Threatened Use of Force

NC0404200794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 4 Apr (MENA)—A source close to the General People's Congress has denied reports that the meeting in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, last night between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid ended with the former threatening to wage war. He described these reports as groundless.

The source affirmed that the dialogue will continue to be the optimal approach to working out all of Yemen's problems. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Returns to Aden From UAE, Oman Visits 4 Apr

JN0404182294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Aden, 4 Apr (WAKH)—'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, returned to Aden this afternoon at the conclusion of visits to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Sultanate of Oman.

During the two visits, al-Bid met with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan [passage indistinct].

YSP Source Denies Oman Meeting Requested by al-Bid

JN0404133594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Aden, 4 Apr (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has denied that the Salalah meeting between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid was held at al-Bid's request.

The source added that the Salalah meeting was the outcome of a proposal made by the Sultanate of Oman, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt, because the four countries were concerned that Yemen not slide into a civil war. The source went on to say that these countries advised the Yemenis and the Yemeni leaders to opt for either confederation or federation, particularly since the merger unity has failed due to doubts, suspicion, and mistrust between the two parties to the merger unity.

Daily on Foreign Minister's Efforts To 'Heal' Rift

NC0504103294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 29 Mar 94 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf made intensive efforts on the sidelines of the Arab League Council session to persuade Arab countries, foremost Egypt, to normalize their relations with Iraq and allow the rift in Arab ranks to heal.

Al-Sahhaf met with the Egyptian, Jordanian, and Moroccan foreign ministers in a bid to improve Iraqi-Arab ties. Minister al-Sahhaf said that his country will be pleased to receive any Egyptian official who wishes to visit Baghdad in an attempt to normalize relations.

The Iraqi foreign minister accused Israel of arming and training the Kurds in Northern Iraq to destabilize the security and stability of Iraq. Al-Sahhaf called for a stiffer Arab boycott of Israel until the latter stops its arbitrary practices in the occupied territories and respects the resolutions of the UN Security Council and international legitimacy.

Al-Sahhaf said that his country implemented most UN Security Council resolutions. He denied that Iraq holds any Kuwaiti detainees, inviting Arab teams to visit Iraq to see for themselves.

Oil Minister Explains Refusal To Sign OPEC Accord

JN0404201794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1912 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—Iraq has refused to sign an agreement reached by the OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee in its 12th session held in Geneva last week. The agreement calls for maintaining the current crude oil production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day [bpd] until the end of the year.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad said that Iraq has reiterated its commitment to the 1990 Geneva agreement because it is the only agreement reached by the OPEC under normal circumstances, because it defines the level of production and prices in a legitimate way, and because it is binding on the OPEC member states.

The oil minister said that the recent agreement, which was not signed by Iraq, will cause further deterioration in oil prices in the world market because the ceiling is much higher than the expected world demand for OPEC crude oil, particularly during the second and third quarters of this year. World demand for OPEC crude oil is estimated at 23 million bpd, a figure that is less than OPEC's current production ceiling.

The minister noted that the convening of this meeting came at a time when oil prices have deteriorated to a level not seen since the beginning of the seventies. OPEC, he said, had to make a choice: Either to reduce the production ceiling to the level of demand indicated by the oil prices or to maintain the current production ceiling and sacrifice the prices.

Dr. Jawad indicated that Saudi Arabia rejected the first choice because it requires it to make a significant drop in its output. Saudi Arabia's current output amounts to one-third of the region's output. He added that Saudi Arabia has claimed that this choice would encourage non-OPEC states to increase their output, something that would result in the decline of OPEC output and its share of the oil market. This, according to the Saudi point of view, would further weaken OPEC. The minister stressed that the nine-month period specified by the agreement will eventually result in weakening OPEC and the market because its does not take into consideration seasonal changes in the demand for oil.

Concluding his statement to INA, Dr. Safa Hadi Jawad said that, out of its concern for the individual and collective interests of the OPEC member states, Iraq has rejected this agreement and declared its commitment to the Geneva agreement of 1990 for the reasons mentioned above. He urged the oil exporting nations to adopt stands that protect their interests and stop the continued looting of their resources through the continued reduction in oil prices, which have now dropped to levels lower than those of the early seventies.

Opposition: Envoys Recalled, New Security Council Formed

JN0404180394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Saddam regime has recalled a number of ambassadors and heads of missions abroad to discuss urgent issues. This came in a circulation issued by the ministry a few days ago. The ministry is expected to discuss with these diplomats the method of action in the next phase. Iraqi opposition sources expect the regime to embark on diplomatic transfers on charges of dereliction of duties following the sharp criticism of Iraqi diplomacy made by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn through his newspaper BABIL.

An Iraqi diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, revealed that a circular was issued by the Iraqi Intelligence Command to its offices in Iraqi embassies to activate their efforts and to contact Iraqis abroad to attract them to return to Iraq.

The intelligence office in the Iraqi regime embassy in Jordan embarked on an organized campaign to exert pressure on Iraqi writers, who are in Amman, to return to Iraq and to warn them against issuing any anti-regime writings. The source added that a ranking Iraqi intelligence officer, Hikmat al-Haju, joined the Amman Embassy staff to replace the second man in the embassy and to supervise intelligence activities together with two other employees who were assigned to the embassy

earlier. The source added that a new plan has been set to utilize trade and commercial centers to collect information and to monitor the movements of Iraqis through recruiting agents among them as fake reporters and propagation employees who deal with Gulf papers.

In another development, Interior Minister Watban al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother, has been charged with the chairmanship of the Higher Council for National Security, including the heads of the Departments of Intelligence, Private Security, Military Intelligence, and Internal Public Security. This council will coordinate among the security departments and its affiliated institutions to tackle the emergency situation that is expected to explode in the country.

PUK Issues Statement on Killing of AFP Reporter

NC0404203194 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Nicosia, April 4 (AFP)—An AFP correspondent and her bodyguard in Iraqi Kurdistan were killed instantly when one or more gunmen fired at their car with automatic weapons at short range, UN officials said Monday.

Lissy Schmidt, a 35-year-old German, was travelling with her Iraqi Kurdish bodyguard on a road linking al-Sulaymaniyah with Sayid Sadiq near the Iranian border when they were attacked from a passing car Sunday, UN officials in the area told AFP by telephone.

"It was really (an attack) aimed at her," one UN source said. "She had no chance."

The two bodies were sent to a mortuary at al-Sulaymaniyah hospital. Schmidt's body is to be flown back to Germany.

UN officials said it was not known who carried out the attack.

Schmidt had not spoken of any threats on her life in the days before her death.

In Damascus one of the main Iraqi Kurdish groups, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime had "promised a reward of 10,000 dollars to anyone killing a foreigner in Kurdistan."

However, the PUK, which runs the de facto autonomous region with the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), did not name the killers in its statement.

The PUK said Schmidt and the bodyguard, Aziz Qadir, were killed instantly by the gunmen at a range of around 300 metres (yards). They were near Jakhnakhajian village.

Schmidt was the only foreign journalist permanently based in Iraqi Kurdistan, controlled by the Kurds since their uprising against the Baghdad regime following the January-February 1991 Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Paper Notes Remarks of Saudi Foreign Minister at GCC

JN0304103594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0708 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the policy of the Al Sa'ud family has always been characterized by subordination and submissiveness to foreigners, and that their stands have always been hostile to all nationalist and pan-Arab regimes in the Arab homeland.

The paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, says in an article today that the Al Sa'ud family has spent billions of dollars to conspire against nationalist and pan-Arab revolutions in more than one Arab country, following instructions from and through direct coordination with their American masters and allies.

The paper adds: In view of their upbringing and the role of imperialism in the establishment of their state and constant support for it, the Al Sa'ud rulers find nothing abnormal in their submissiveness to the West and the United States.

Referring to yesterday's address by Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Al Sa'ud family's foreign minister, at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the paper says that this agent, expressing his family's black hatred against Iraq, has deemed it too much for some Gulf states to adopt a stand that is in line with pan-Arab sentiments or to call for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

The paper adds: In his address, agent Sa'ud al-Faysal denounces with extreme stupidity Iraq's efforts and contacts aimed at developing a world public opinion in support of its fair cause.

The paper explains that this agent minister was so shameless as to accuse Iraq of working to split the unity of the Gulf states against Iraq, which stood like a lofty mountain and whose children offered rivers of blood to defend the Gulf itself.

The paper stresses that what Sa'ud al-Faysal said was directly ordered by his American masters. Thus, he is only playing the role of a minor agent echoing the voice of his masters and acting like a lowly follower. The paper says that this stand is a continuation of the Al Sa'ud family's treasonous role which they started in Hafar al-Batin when they made available all requirements of the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

The paper stresses that the progress in the stands of some sisterly Arab Gulf states was not a coincidence, but was the outcome of a total conviction of the importance of Iraq and its role in maintaining the Gulf unity and security, and because they have come to realize that the blockade imposed on Iraq has gone beyond all international and legitimate justifications.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says that the aim of the Al Sa'ud family's allegations is to keep the Arab Gulf states under the threat of the imperialist hammer, represented by this family, and to urge the continuation of the blockade, which will inevitably come to an end because of the rising number of good people in the world and the unrelenting steadfastness of the people of Iraq.

Parliamentary Talks Held With Jordanian Delegation

JN0404200294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—A parliamentary meeting was held today between the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee and the visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation. The conferees discussed means of cooperation and coordination at Arab and international parliament meetings with the objective of doubling efforts to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. They also discussed bilateral parliamentary relations and means of promoting them.

Dr. Safa' Salih, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee, led the Iraqi side, and 'Abd Musa al-Nahar, deputy speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, led the Jordanian side.

'Thousands' of Kurds Enter Country From Turkey

NC0104172794 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 1 Apr 94

[By Lissy Schmidt]

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, April 1 (AFP)—At least 2,000 Kurds have trekked across the mountains from Turkey to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq in the past month, reporting widespread repression by Turkish security forces, officials said.

Kurdish customs officers and military personnel said Friday the Kurdish authorities registered more than 1,000 refugees in the border town of Zakho on March 11, but 1,000 more arrived later in the month. They were staying in tents and ruined Iraqi Kurdish villages.

Muhammed Mikho, a Kurd from the village of Gevere in southern Turkey, told AFP the Turkish authorities prevented cars from entering or leaving the village and the Kurds could not take sick people to hospital.

"No food reached our village. We could not provide our children with fruit or vegetables throughout the winter," he said.

He was staying in a tent near the Turkish border with his wife and eight children.

Just before Sunday's Turkish municipal elections "soldiers came into the village, hit us, tortured our women and threatened to kill all of us," Mikho said. The soldiers' actions prompted Kurdish families to leave Gevere.

The Kurdish authorities, who have controlled the Iraqi side of the border since March 1991, said they had not decided how to handle the new influx.

The refugees insisted on international protection and rejected plans to move them into a camp, saying they were "afraid of the Turkish secret services," Kurdish officials in Zakho said.

Turkish representatives maintain a contact office in Zakho.

A refugee from Sibeli village said the Turkish Kurds feared cross-border raids by Turkish helicopters, and wanted to keep their places of refuge secret.

Other refugees said the Turkish military did not let them take any property with them and they had not yet received any aid.

As discussions continued in Zakho over the establishment of a refugee camp, Kurdish police who refused to be named said they were not sure whether they would be able to protect refugees in a camp against "attacks from the Turkish secret services."

Iraq Protests U.S. Aircraft Violations to UN

JN0404114794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Iraq has once again protested to the UN secretary general the U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace for observation, provocation purposes and for dropping flares.

Iraq's permanent represenative said in a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general yesterday that the referent aircraft carried out 561 hostile air sorties and several reconnaissance sorties 21-30 April, in addition to dropping flares.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that the memorandum be circulated among the UN Security Council members and to consider it as one of its documents.

Rabin Reportedly To Travel to Cairo 12 Apr

NC0404115294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will visit Egypt on 12 April.

Sources from the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations made this statement to MENA today.

These sources added that Rabin is expected to meet during the visit with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Informed sources in Washington had also spoken about the travel of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Cairo on the same date to attend the ceremony in which Rabin and 'Arafat will sign the agreement on implementing autonomy in Gaza and Jericho which will take place under the patronage of President Husni Mubarak.

Rabin on Possibility of 'Arafat Meeting

TA0504071194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this morning that anyone who thought that the negotiations with the Palestinians could be concluded within a matter of days was wrong. Rabin said that there is no room for a meeting between himself and Yasir 'Arafat at the present time.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Did anyone expect some kind of hocus-pocus? Anyone who thought that everything could be wrapped up within two or six days was simply wrong and did not understand the situation. If an agreement is not reached or, at least, until such an agreement is secured, we will have to clarify to the Palestinians how the economic side of things will be implemented.

[Economic affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein] In your opinion, is there room for another meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and yourself at the present time?

[Rabin] I think it is preferable to prepare such a meeting—if and when it takes place—in such a way as to preclude the possibility of another meeting between 'Arafat and myself ending unsuccessfully. [end recording]

Our economic affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein reports that the prime minister was speaking after a ceremony marking the sale of the Bet Shemesh engine factory to the Ormat company.

Rabin: Implementation To Require 'a Few Days'

TA0404141594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians will be very quick and will require only a few days. Mr. Rabin said this during today's cabinet session.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 4 April, in a report by Udi Segal on the cabinet session, adds the following: "Prime Minister Rabin said it will take a miracle to complete the negotiations by the middle of this month. Rabin said there are only six or seven negotiating days until 12 or 13 April—the no-longer sacred date—due to Holocaust Day [7 April]. Rabin also denied press reports on 14 April as an alternative option."]

Also in the session, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Yasir 'Arafat played a constructive role in the contacts involved in resuming the Gaza-Jericho negotiations. Security elements told the minister that 'Arafat's status in the territories is shaky. The government was also told that several mayors in the territories who had been deposed now want to resume office, like newly reappointed Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said that 90 percent of nationalistic motivated murders of Israelis over the last year were perpetrated by Gaza Strip youths.

Rabin Rejects PLO Demands Regarding Qatif

TA0504112394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1030 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says if he has another meeting with Yasir 'Arafat it will have to be carefully prepared to ensure that it is not a failure like the last one. He told reporters this morning Israel will stand firm on the issue of the Qatif Bloc, in spite of the last minute demands of the Palestinians in the Cairo talks. Our reporter Jack Katzenell asked him if the talks were proceeding too slowly:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] There are differences of opinion, but I believe that we will succeed to overcome the difficulties. We are not expecting to achieve an agreement in few days, but we have agreed to start building the nucleus of the Palestinian police in two places in Gaza and in one place in Jericho. We will do it gradually. We believe that it will allow—once we reach an agreement and sign it—and help a more smooth hand over of the responsibilities that will be transferred from the Civil Administration and the military government to the Palestinian authority.

[Katzenell] If Israel allows the Palestinians to deploy bit by bit in this way, will it not in the end force our hand? Can Israel hold the Palestinians to their promises about all the limitations on the Palestinian police?

[Rabin] Well, I believe that the bringing of a few dozen Palestinian police to these places—to each one of them, every one of them—will not undermine our capability to reach the agreement that we want, so that our vital interest will be served.

[Katzenell] Is Israel standing firm on the issue of the Qatif Bloc and the idea of its being one single bloc which the Palestinian police cannot enter?

[Rabin] We signed an agreement in Cairo, including attached maps. Of course, everything is dependent on the conclusion of the agreement; but the maps were signed and we take them as they signed as the basis for whatever will develop. [end recording]

Rabin, Peres Seen Changing Stand on Russian Role

TA0504100394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel has changed its stand regarding Russia's involvement in the peace process. This emerges from remarks made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in yesterday's cabinet session. Peres said that "we should treat the Russians with respect," reminding the ministers that there are 1.5 million Jews in Russia. "We have no business expressing reservations about Russia's involvement," he said.

Rabin said that the United States praised the role the Russians played in the activity vis-a-vis the Serbs in the Bosnia crisis. "We have special relations with the United States, expressed through aid and strategic cooperation, but Russian foreign policy is more active than in the past and is not negative," Rabin said.

The prime minister did not reiterate the claim he made during the past several weeks that Russia should coordinate its moves on the peace process with the United States. [passage omitted]

Russian Envoy Briefs Rabin on Tunis, Jordan Meetings

TA0404175394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department. The Russian official, who arrived in the Middle East as the special envoy of President Yeltsin, briefed Rabin about his meetings in Tunis and Jordan. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in the meeting, Posuvalyuk made it clear that Russia wants to preserve a neutral attitude in the Middle East political process and is interested in coordinating positions with the United States in the political negotiations.

Says Russia Coordinating With U.S.

TA0504115394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1030 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] President Yeltsin's envoy, Viktor Posuvalyuk, said he has been warmly received in Israel. In an interview with Jack Katzenell, Posuvalyuk said Russia is coordinating its Middle East policy with the United States. He dismissed the suggestion that Yasir 'Arafat is trying to exploit the traditional rivalry between the two superpowers to obtain last minute concessions from Israel.

[Begin recording] [Posuvalyuk] I think that Yasir 'Arafat adequately and in a right way understands that Russian cosponsor stands, let us say, in the middle between the two parties as the American cosponsor does. We are trying to help both parties. My concept is that the Israeli Government and the leadership of the PLO are in one boat. So, they are moving ahead with this peace process. They are helping each other, and they are serving their own interests. There is no contradiction.

[Katzenell] Have you had a warm welcome here in Israel?

[Posuvalyuk] Yes, yes. And I thank the Israeli Government for this warm welcome.

[Katzenell] What are you going to do next, sir?

[Posuvalyuk] I suppose in a few days, maybe—in two or three days—I am going to take part in Russian-American consultations on the Middle East. [end recording]

Peres Meets Norwegian, Danish, Italian Envoys

TA0404185994 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report followed by 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[Excerpt] The representatives of the Foreign and Defense ministries of the three countries which are contributing personnel to the international force in Hebron will arrive in Israel tomorrow. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today promised the Norwegian, Danish, and Italian ambassadors in Israel that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will guarantee the safety of the international force. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today sought to assuage the concern of the ambassadors of the three countries which agreed to send observers to Hebron. For this reason he also summoned Major General Dani Yatom, the officer who will be in charge of the safety of the 160 international observers as of next week. The complicated problems of coordination will be tackled, among other ways, by special uniforms and easily identified vehicles. Peres believes that the headache is not too bad:

[Peres] In English we refer to the temporary international presence in Hebron as TIPH, Temporary International Presence in Hebron [preceding five words in English]. In Hebrew we can refer to it as tipa [meaning one drop in Hebrew]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cave of Patriarchs Closed Pending 'New Arrangements'

TA0404130194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the Cave of the Patriarchs would remain closed pending new arrangements that will be acceptable to the Muslim Waqf. Rabin was replying to a question by Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

Temple Mount Reopened to Non-Muslims

TA0504044194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] As of this morning, tourists and Israeli citizens will be permitted to enter the Temple Mount. After the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs, the Temple Mount was closed off to non-Muslim worshipers. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that visitors will be permitted to enter only through Dung Gate.

Cabinet Puts Off Discussion on Hebron Evacuation

TA0404113894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] In its session today, the cabinet decided not to discuss the evacuation of Jews from Hebron, and the ministers said that at this stage, the focus should be on promoting the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. The cabinet heard optimistic briefings about the chances of concluding the negotiations with the Palestinians by the end of April. The prime minister expressed his fear that countries that pledged to contribute funds to the Palestinians might not transfer their donations in an orderly fashion, and that the delays might harm the residents of the territories and make the political process more difficult.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the cabinet was briefed about the difficulties in the economic negotiations, due to disagreements among the Palestinians. The cabinet was further told that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will apparently arrive in the region toward the end of the month, before the resumption of the Washington negotiations. In his coming tour, he will also focus on promoting the negotiations with Syria.

Preparations Made for Return of Deportees, 'Arafat

TA0504062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Israel has agreed to permit the return of 47 deportees. They will arrive in the territories in two groups. The first group is slated to arrive in Jericho today. Officials in Tunis said that in the next few days, Israel will present a list of another 20 deportees who will be permitted to return. At the same time, Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the head of the PLO's Economic Department, said that the Paris negotiations on economic issues will be concluded before 13 April. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The first deportees will return to Jericho today via Amman and the Allenby Bridge. A Palestinian source in Tunis yesterday said that Israel had agreed to permit the return of 20 deportees and would present a list of their names to the PLO in the next few days. The source stressed that in his opinion, the new list would also include Akram Haniyah, who was deported from al-Birah in 1988 and has since served as one of Yasir 'Arafat's senior advisers. Speaking over the telephone from Tunis, Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-al-'Ala', the head of the PLO's economic department, said that in addition to the aforementioned 20 deportees, Israel has also authorized the return of 47 deportees.

[Abu-al-'Ala', in English] I think about 47. I am not speaking about names; I am speaking about figures. I believe that all of them, if not in this group then in the other groups, they will come.

[Amir translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] As for the economic talks in Paris, Abu-al-'Ala' expressed the assessment that the negotiations with Israel will be concluded before 13 April.

[Abu-al-'Ala', in English] I hope, and we will do our best. I believe that we and Mr. Shohat and the delegation, both of us, are concerned to finish this mission immediately so as to come into the implementation of the first stage of the agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

[Amir translates above remarks into Hebrew and continues] Jericho today awaits the arrival of the deportees returning across the Allenby Bridge. PLO representatives in the territories are preparing a warm reception; however, the Civil Administration has been instructed by the defense establishment to permit the deportees to enter Jericho only this afternoon in order to keep celebrations to a minimum. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will probably close off the Jericho area to the media to prevent any coverage of the deportees' return. The deportees intend to hold a news conference in Jericho. Fatah leaders in the territories, who, on 'Arafat's instructions, have closed most of the PLO offices, are now waiting to turn over supervision of the organization's activists in the field to the first representatives of the PLO leadership in Tunis. The returning deportees will primarily handle the preparations for the arrival of the PLO leaders from Tunis, who are already packed and ready to move to the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Abu-al-'Ala' estimates that the PLO leadership, led by Yasir 'Arafat, will arrive in the territories immediately after the IDF withdrawal and the deployment of the Palestinian police. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 5 April in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 19 reports that "in his talks with Israeli officials in Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat

expressed his desire to pray at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem shortly after he arrives in Jericho in May. It has been learned that Israeli decisionmakers are inclined to accept 'Arafat's request."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 April reports that "reacting to Yasir 'Arafat's desire to be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount mosques, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that in his opinion, the time is not ripe for this. The police minister believes that at this stage, it would be best to put this off to a later time."]

IDF To Be Responsible for Palestinian Policemen

TA0404193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] As of tomorrow, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the Gaza Strip will start operating on the basis of new directives especially formulated for the interim period. Our military affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David has learned that tomorrow the IDF forces will start the overlapping with the first Palestinian policemen. According to the new directives, the IDF will be responsible for the safety of the policemen. Soldiers are forbidden to open fire at suspicious vehicles or cars which run over roadblocks unless it is clear that it is a terrorist attack. [passage omitted]

IDF, Forces To Foil Jewish Riots on Evacuation Day

TA0504132194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Special roadblocks will be set up on the day the territories of the Palestinian self-government are evacuated to prevent the entry of right-wing activists who are expected to carry out spectacular acts to foil the evacuation. In view of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the IDF and the security forces will employ special units to handle disturbances along the routes and at certain sites in the territories and inside Israel. The above details appear in a document obtained by HA'ARETZ.

According to estimates by the security forces and the police, the right is expected to stage demonstrations against the evacuation. At the same time, Palestinian organizations opposing the Declaration of Principles and the accompanying agreements might carry out attacks.

According to the plans, the Khan Yunus police station is due to be evacuated in five days. All the other Gaza Strip installments will be evacuated between 17 and 21 April. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment is anticipating riots by Israelis on the day of the evacuation. Therefore, it has been decided to concentrate large forces to handle riots by Jews along the routes, at certain sites, and inside Israel. On the day of the evacuation, the IDF, the police, and the security forces will takeover all the routes leading to the Gaza Strip and Jericho to prevent the riots.

Until the evacuation, the IDF will avoid initiating operations which might create friction with the local population. Activity against fugitives, mainly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, will continue. The soldiers were instructed to avoid shooting as much as possible. New open-fire regulations will soon be issued. They will state that soldiers may not open fire at a vehicle which breaks through a roadblock, unless it has been established that this is a terror attack and the soldiers threatened with death. The soldiers were instructed to work for the security of the Palestinian police arriving in Gaza, and treat them with restraint and respect.

Ministry Prepares Working Paper on Golan Security

TA0504112694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry recently prepared its first working paper on security arrangements for the Golan Heights in the framework of a peace a agreement with Syria. The document does not address the issue of withdrawal from the Golan Heights or its extent in the framework of the arrangement; rather, it examines the foundations of security arrangements between Israel and Syria, such as demilitarizing territories, thinning out forces, setting up early warning stations, and deploying international supervisors.

The document was presented to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Foreign Ministry top echelons, and senior members of the defense establishment. The document is based on analyses of research by HA'ARETZ's military commentator Ze'ev Schiff and by Brigadier General (Reserves) Arye Shalev and which examined possible security arrangements between Israel and Syria.

Two days ago, Peres held a discussion with his ministry's top officials on an arrangement with Syria. Over the past few days, sources in the ministry have been saying that after completing the agreement with the PLO, "we will race toward Syria."

In the discussion, Peres told the ministry staffers to prepare proposals for the development of characteristics of normalization in the arrangement with Syria, such as economic ties between the two countries. Several ideas in this respect have already been raised at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Group Barred Entrance To Oman

TA0404185494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] At the last minute today, Oman canceled the Israeli Foreign Ministry delegation's arrival. The high-level delegation was slated to arrive in Oman tonight in order to prepare for the participation of an Israeli delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin in a new round of multilateral peace talks. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that at this stage, the preparatory visit has been delayed by one week. It was also hinted that the Israeli media will not be permitted to attend the talks themselves—scheduled to be held several days later—as previously planned.

Desalination Project on Jordanian Border Presented

TA2803144894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Mar 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by Yehudit Yehezqeli]

[Text] A plan to create a new Jordan River carrying desalinated water from the Mediterranean Sea was presented last Wednesday [23 March] to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dan Shomron, chairman of Israel Military Industries, a co-partner in the project put forth together with a Jordanian and three German firms.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of finance, agriculture, energy, and environment. The project, which calls for a $3-billion investment, would for the most part be financed by the German firms and would last 10 years. One of the partners in the project said it is designed to meet the water requirements of Israel and Jordan upon the advent of the 21st century.

The plan is based on the original idea conceived decades ago by the Israeli engineer Shlomo Gur. Its main components are:

Water from the Mediterranean Sea would be carried in a 63-km-long canal from the 'Atlit area to Ramat Tzvi, north of Bet She'an. From this point, the water would flow in a pipe to the desalination site, 5 km from Ramat Tzvi, and would drop from an altitude of 320 meters. The desalination facility would be built near Kibbutz Ma'oz Hayyim, on both sides of the Jordan River.

The water would be desalinated in a process known as double osmosis, using the energy created by the difference in altitude. Hence, the desalination would not require electric energy and would cause no ecologic pollution. The water would gather in a dam to be built about 20 km away, in the Tall Abu-Sus area on the Israeli-Jordanian border.

The lake that would be created would constitute "a new Jordan River"—narrow, long, and deep. It would be 20-km long, 25-meter deep, and 5-km wide and would carry 1 billion cubic meters of desalinated water yearly, in addition to the flood water now streaming into the Jordan River and getting lost in the Dead Sea.

The Dead Sea would get the additional salt settling as a result of the desalination process.

The entire project, both the pipe and the canal, would be 170-km long. According to the plan, the cost of desalinating one cubic meter of water would be 50 cents, as opposed to the $1 it costs to desalinate water by the seaside.

The project was drafted by Idea G.V., a company formed by Israel Military Industries and the German firms Proeussag (a steel manufacturer), Noell (a Proeussag daughter company specializing in hydromechanics and desalination), and Kaiser (a venture capital firm for special projects); and a Jordanian firm, seeing that the project would lie half in Israel and half in the Jordanian Kingdom.

Bank of Jordan Opens First Branch in Territories

TA0404080794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The Bank of Jordan today opened its first branch in the territories. The branch manager said that it employs 45 workers, and that in the coming months the bank will open seven branches in Janin, Nabulus, Hebron, and Jericho.

Shamgar Commission Continues To Hear Testimonies

TA0304155294

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew on 3 April carries several reports by legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem on the testimonies heard today by the Shamgar commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre.

At 0700 GMT, Amsalem reports on the testimony of Tzvi Katzover, head of the Qiryat Arba' Council. "Katzover warned that more acts of despair by individuals should be expected if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] continues to desert the settlers, leaving them to fend for themselves. He denounced Goldstein's deed, saying that most residents of Qiryat Arba' disapprove of it, even if they understand the reasons that drove Goldstein to it.

"Commission member Moshe Levi, a former chief of staff, asked Katzover whether the Qiryat Arba' Council had taken any action to get rid of people whom he suspects might carry out acts of despair. Katzover explained that the council had no authority to expel people, but that he had approached the commander of the Central Command and given him names of dangerous people."

At 1100 GMT, the radio reports that "sewage truck driver Eli Ganon denied allegations that he had entered

the Cave of the Patriarchs carrying an M-16 rifle and had thus confused witnesses trying to identify the weapon used by Barukh Goldstein."

Ganon told the Shamgar commission that "he was not carrying a rifle on the morning of the massacre, but was only armed with a pistol. He added that he normally kept an Uzi submachine gun at home," and noted that "he did not see Goldstein on the morning of the massacre."

At 1400 GMT, Amsalem reports on the testimony of Brigadier General David Agmon, the chief of staff's adviser on intifadah affairs. "His testimony centered on the question of how Barukh Goldstein entered the Cave of the Patriarchs and whether it was reasonable to assume that he had an accomplice. Agmon stated that in his first debriefing to the chief of staff he had noted that Goldstein walked into the cave through the main entrance, and not through a side door. In Agmon's opinion, Goldstein operated alone and was armed with a Glilon rifle which was found in the hall after the massacre. Nevertheless, Agmon said he had heard from soldiers that they were used to seeing Goldstein with an M-16 rifle. He rejected the theory raised by Justice al-Zu'bi that Goldstein's accomplice was carrying an M-16 rifle and a bag to collect spent bullets. Justice Shamgar also remarked that such a possibility did not appear reasonable to him.

"Earlier, the commission heard the testimony of four of the 10-man group of worshipers Goldstein used to pray with. They confirmed that only shots, not explosions, were heard in the cave at the time of the massacre. A discrepancy was found between the testimony of one of the worshipers, Yosef Nagar, and his deposition to the police over the question of the place through which Goldstein had entered the Muslim's prayer hall.

"Goldstein's widow, Miryam, failed to appear before the commission."

Further on Testimonies

TA0404163094

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1030 GMT on 4 April reports that "in this morning's session, the commission heard Police Inspector Leon Nadivi's ballistics report on the bullets fired during the massacre. He said he checked 115 cartridges collected in the area of the Cave of the Patriarchs, where the massacre took place—89 had been fired from the Glilon rifle belonging to Barukh Goldstein; 5 had come from soldiers' weapons; and one was fired by an unidentified gun. Nadivi said also that he found no indication of grenade explosions. Several Arab witnesses who were in the cave at the time testified they heard explosions of the type associated with a grenade."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 4 April reports that "in today's proceedings police ballistics experts said one of the bullets found on the scene did not belong to the gun of Barukh Goldstein but remains unidentified."

In this afternoon's testimony, Palestinian doctors from local hospitals told the commission about delays in the transfer and treatment of massacre victims."

Arabs Killed, Identified by IDF as Wanted Men

TA0404132294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The three terrorists killed in Hebron approximately 10 days ago were involved in the murders of several Israelis in the territories. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that ballistic examinations of their weapons prove that the three men participated in the murders of Efrayim Ayubi, Shalom and Mordekhay Lapid, Me'ir Mendelovich, and Eliyahu Levin. They also participated in other terrorist attacks in which three Israeli citizens and six soldiers were wounded.

An Arab youth was captured this afternoon at the entrance to the Cave of the Patriarchs in possession of a knife, a switchblade knife, and a leaflet calling for revenge against the Jews. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the youth confessed he had planned to stab Jews.

Last night, the security forces discovered an arms cache containing a Kalashnikov rifle, a handgun, and a large quantity of ammunition, in Gaza city, near the home of a local resident, who is a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the man was detained for questioning.

Palestinian Sources: 24 Hurt in Clashes With IDF

TA0404163594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] In the territories today, two Israeli civilians were wounded when their car was pelted with stones while passing through Bethlehem. One of them, lightly hurt, was treated by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] medics on the spot; the other was evacuated to Hadassah Hospital where he is reported to be in moderate condition.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources say up to 24 local residents were wounded in clashes with IDF troops today. The major flash points were reported to be in Hebron's old city, and in the town of Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip.

Washington Meeting on Ship Inspections To Be Held

JN0504075494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 94 pp 1, 25

[By Caroline Faraj in Amman]

[Text] An expanded meeting will be held tomorrow Wednesday [6 April] comprising representatives of U.S. Government departments and bodies concerned with foreign affairs to discuss available options concerning the U.S. Navy's inspection of ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah.

Well-informed sources have said that a number of concerned U.S. departments and institutions are trying to obstruct the holding of this meeting. However, the U.S. State Department intends to make a final decision during Wednesday's meeting.

A political observer believes that the U.S. State Department's inclination toward making a decision should lead to a positive one in Jordan's favor. This expected decision will be the result of the clear and frank stand expressed by His Majesty King Husayn during his meeting with ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council last week.

The previous meeting scheduled for last Thursday was postponed for reasons the U.S. State Department spokesman said were connected with fixing an appropriate date and time among the bodies concerned with foreign affairs.

It is worth noting that three months ago Jordan proposed the appointment of a third technical and neutral party such as Lloyd's Register to inspect ships at the Port of al-'Aqabah rather than by the U.S. Navy in the Straits of Tiran as the situation is now.

Chief of Staff Meets U.S. Naval Force Commander

JN0404162794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff today received Vice Admiral Douglas Katz, commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. They discussed the situation in the region, joint coordination and cooperation, and issues of joint interest.

Attending the meeting were the chief of staff of the Jordanian Ground Forces, the assistant to the chairman of the chiefs of staff for intelligence, the Royal Naval Force commander, and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Al-'Anani on Ship Searches, Arab Relations

JN0404103294 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani by Nasir 'Arif in Amman; date not given]

[Text] ['Arif] Coordination among the Arab countries on all issues is of utmost importance at the present stage, particularly among the parties involved in the peace process. How do you assess such coordination at the present time?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, we would like to say that Jordan neither opposes nor does it obstruct. It has always emphasized the need for Arab coordination. Jordan also admits that such coordination should be at a high level among the Arab parties that are involved in the peace negotiations.

We in Jordan do not insist on how to carry out such coordination. It is irrelevant whether the Arab foreign ministers meet on the sidelines of the Arab League meeting, or hold a specific meeting for this purpose in Cairo, Damascus, or Amman. What is important is that such a meeting takes place and tackles all the issues that should be discussed. Otherwise, there will be an impression that there are conflicting interests among the negotiating countries, and this should absolutely not occur.

From this premise, and out of its awareness of the importance of this issue Jordan states its viewpoints on the stands of the negotiating parties and sometimes criticizes the Palestinian negotiating stands as such stands directly harm or affect Jordan's interests. However, Jordan does not reject coordination but insists on it, whether on the bilateral of multilateral level. This should be given top priority. Otherwise, the alternative will not produce good results for the entire Arab nation.

['Arif] Some Arab parties which participate in the negotiations say that the PLO has removed itself from the framework of Arab coordination by signing the Oslo agreement. Does Jordan hold a similar view?

[Al-'Anani] We in Jordan do not believe the conclusion of the Oslo agreement is a departure from Arab ranks. This is because we began negotiations in Madrid and later in Washington with the knowledge that the PLO was negotiating on the transitional phase while the other Arab countries were negotiating for a final solution. In other words, only the PLO from among the Arab delegations participating in the negotiations had two stages; a transitional stage and a final stage.

I believe Syria's protest revolved around the fact that the PLO did not coordinate with the other Arab parties participating in the negotiations. Some frankly say that had there not been secret negotiations, results would not bave been achieved. Others say that these results were not satisfactory because there was no Arab coordination.

I conclude by saying that every negotiating party has its own interpretation and assessment. However, in the final analysis we do not believe that by signing the Oslo agreement, the PLO has violated the conditions of Arab coordination. What we view as an infringement is the PLO's withholding any dealings with the other Arab parties while it was discussing this agreement with the Israelis.

Let me say this frankly. Arab coordination requires a large amount of tolerance and forgiveness to enable the negotiating Arab parties to bring pressure to bear on those who depart from Arab ranks to have them rejoin these ranks. If we adopt a rejectionist stand toward it, it will make it persist on its lone course.

['Arif] There were conflicting reports about the results of the recent visit by the PLO's representative to Jordan. How true is this?

[Al-'Anani] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi did not intend to achieve results during his recent visit. He came to explain the Palestinian stand on Resolution 904 and to brief Jordan on the negotiations that are taking place between the PLO and Israel in Cairo.

Mr. Bal'awi explained in detail the PLO's stand on this resolution. Jordan had insisted on the need for coordination before, during, and after the incident. The PLO representative understood the message very well and he will communicate it to the Palestinian command.

['Arif] We have heard that the Kuwaiti Government has proposed reestablishing relations with Jordan in return for the Jordanian Government's recognition of the recent demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border. How true is this?

[Al-'Anani] This is absolutely not true. However, Jordan's hand is open for anyone who wants to reestablish ties with it without preconditions and based on noninterference in internal affairs.

If Jordan was convinced that the border demarcation between Iraq and Kuwait is the acceptable thing that the two countries have agreed upon, then we cannot but support this. However, it is not right to say that we are for or against, without having clear information about this issue.

In this context, let me say that Kuwait is in need of reestablishing ties with Jordan, just as Jordan is in need of reestablishing ties with Kuwait. Therefore, if the Kuwaiti officials think it is in the interest of their country to reestablish ties with Jordan, then we welcome them as brothers on the basis of mutual respect and each party's free adoption of whatever positions it deems appropriate on Arab issues.

['Arif] How do you assess the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers held recently on the sidelines of the Arab League meeting?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, we have to bear in mind that the Arab atmosphere amid which this meeting was held was not good. There are Arab disagreements which I need not recount. The Arab states have failed to agree on some difficult issues which are difficult to agree on even when Arab states are in perfect accord. To agree on those issues at present will be much more difficult, especially amending the Arab League charter. This issue was discussed before the Gulf war, which split Arab ranks.

Despite all of this, we should develop the Arab League's bylaws to enable it to play its true role in the right manner and to serve as a mechanism of Arab support for the United Nations.

['Arif] What about relations with the Gulf states?

[Al-'Anani] One cannot clap with one hand. Enhancing relations with the Gulf states should be mutual. If we examine Jordan's present circumstances and the circumstances of the Gulf states, we will see that the two parties need each other and that no one will be doing the other a favor in this respect.

Here, I should say that Arab relations in general between the states that export manpower and the states that had a surplus of cash should no longer depend on the oil aspect alone. It should be based on other dimensions.

In this context, it must be said that Jordan is not only a country that has extra manpower to export to the Gulf states. Also, the Gulf is not only a region that has a surplus of cash to give to Jordan in the form of aid or soft loans. The question is much more complex. There are strategic interests for all of us, primarily defending the Arab nation and its resources. There is also the question of peace and its requirements, whether we reach peace agreements or not.

Jordan is not an inferior country. It has an equal status to any other fraternal Arab country. In this context, we value and appreciate Qatari and Omani relations with Jordan, as well as the progress in relations with the United Arab Emirates. We hope there will be concord with the rest of the Gulf states because we both have mutual interests in promoting bilateral ties.

['Arif] The statements issued by the U.S. Administration in the wake of Jordan's protest against the al-'Aqaba embargo created the impression that there will be negotiations to resolve this issue. Has the Jordanian Government received anything from the United States to this effect?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, we have to say that negotiations over this issue have been going on for a long time. So they are not new. Jordan has constantly been protesting the ship searches. However, the recent ship incident was the straw that broke the camel's back. Hence, Jordan's strong position and reaction because the question has now infringed on its sovereignty and dignity.

We play our role in the peace process out of full conviction that, first, a just, honorable, and lasting peace is

important and, second, Jordan's role in this process is also important. We do not want anyone to think that our belief in these issues mortgages us to them in a way that entitles them to encroach on the homeland's dignity and safety.

Jordan will adopt an appropriate position on the U.S. stand. There were positive reactions by the U.S. Administration after this issue was protested. This administration, however, has not committed itself to specific dates. We hope this issue will be resolved quickly; otherwise, Jordan will take whatever measures it deems appropriate to express its dissatisfaction.

['Arif] It is known that the siege on al-'Aqabah was imposed four years ago, and that it caused grave losses to the Jordanian economy. Why was this issue raised only recently and in this manner?

[Al-'Anani] This issue was raised many times in the past. Time, reaction, and the means of expression depend on the state's assessment of circumstances. Over time, His Majesty King Husayn has proved that he knows very well when to say what should be said and when to take a position. The fact that the reaction to this issue has been great at a specific moment does not mean that the event occurred all of a sudden; this reaction was preceded by other methods. For example, if, under certain circumstances, you express your dissatisfaction with something and demand reversing what you believe is injustice done to you, then you resort to various means and you should try various methods. If these methods prove useless, you will then make an appropriate decision. Hence, when the siege reached this limit, Jordan protested, and his majesty spoke to the U.S. president and the U.S. secretary of state, who both promised to study the Jordanian proposals. We said this would take time. However, when we noted that the [search] measures were escalated, rather than alleviated, we knew that this constituted an indirect reply by the U.S. Administration to our position. Thus, our reaction had to be very clear and unequivocal toward the U.S. Administration.

['Arif] To what extent can Jordan continue to link the lifting of the siege on al-'Aqabah to the return to the peace negotiations?

[Al-'Anani] I do not like to discuss this issue at present. Important alternatives are being studied. I, however, do not want to divulge or talk about these alternatives at present.

['Arif] The World Bank and the IMF make it conditional for Jordan to adopt certain economic policies in exchange for loans. Will Jordan respond to these terms?

[Al-'Anani] This is a political question. Regrettably, I believe that many economic measures adopted by the Government are analyzed by many critics, who lack information, as being imposed or not imposed by the IMF. Here, I would like to say frankly that this is not a scientific way of assessing matters. A scientific approach is to view the law from the viewpoint of whether or not it serves the country's interest. It is not true that something was imposed on us. Naturally, a state with approximately seven billion [currency not specified] indebtedness to the IMF would set more terms than other states. Here, let me honestly say that we ourselves should have implemented many policies which the IMF had requested us to implement.

Moreover, it should be emphasized that all matters agreed by Jordan, the IMF, and the World Bank were thoroughly discussed before being approved or accepted. I thus do not believe that matters go the way some believe. We are not "lying" on the ground and yielding to IMF terms. On the contrary, and as I said, we only agree with the World Bank and the IMF on any matter after a lengthy discussion. Regarding the talk that we should discard and ignore the IMF and the World Bank as if they do not exist, we frankly say that we cannot do so.

['Arif] Jordan was to host an international economic conference. What happened to this conference?

[Al-'Anani] There are endless ideas in this regard. Some of us are surprised when we read a story or a study about this issue. As a matter of fact, there are many studies in all advanced nations about the future plans of the Middle East. We will only do what we think is in our interest. The idea of the conference was originally put forward by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. He tried to present and crystallize this idea. We do not think, however, that the time is right for this. Not only this. We do not have answers to give investors when they come to Jordan. Therefore, making this idea a reality is not possible at this time.

['Arif] In light of the democratic and world changes and the requirements [istihqaqat] imposed by the peace process, what is the new strategy of the Jordanian media?

[Al-'Anani] I do not know what this phrase means. This phrase has been frequently used recently. I wish someone could tell me what it means. I will tell you, however, about the role of the media in the current phase. The media should serve the state and achieve its interests. It should air different views and tell the public the truth about what is happening and the various views regarding what is happening. In any country, people differ over major issues, either against the background of ideological differences, because they have conflicting interests, or for political and party reasons. The media should reflect world public opinion and public opinion in the homeland and help the homeland make decisions.

Second, it is the duty of the media to develop its means and capabilities, since we are not living alone. Jordan has a central geographic location and is open to all channels.

['Arif] His Majesty King Husayn has recently criticized the official media characterizing it as "absent and lost." What measures will be taken to correct this situation?

[Al-'Anani] His majesty's position on the media is not new. He has said this several times in the past. I fully

support this assessment and understand the higher national and positive motives that made his majesty criticize the media. This criticism places the Information Ministry and the officials before their true responsibilities. There will be a comprehensive media plan which we will carry out as soon as possible.

['Arif] There are rumors about changes in the media leaders in the coming days. How true is this?

[Al-'Anani] No comment.

['Arif] Jordanian journalists accuse the Information Ministry of facilitating the mission of foreign journalists without providing the same facilities to them. How do you reply?

[Al-'Anani] Personally, I do not think so.

['Arif] Much has been said about a plan to turn the Radio and Television Corporation into an independent entity. When will this happen?

[Al-'Anani] I want to say one thing. We have an entity named the Radio and Television Corporation, but this entity has no bylaws or board. This is what we plan to do at present.

['Arif] Amnesty International has criticized the Jordanian Press and Publications Law, saying it contradicts human rights and freedom of expression. How do you reply?

[Al-'Anani] We reject this because this law is the outcome of a constitutional, legal process and it was endorsed by the parliament. It is, in fact, much more advanced than previous laws. As for some restrictions in the law, these are in harmony with the Jordanian climate and positions.

The long and short of it is that we do not need anyone to tell us that the Press and Publications Law agrees with or contradicts human rights and freedom of expression because laws are judged by the way they are implemented.

Al-Hasan Views Israeli Practices, Peace Process

NC0104195294 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1620 GMT 1 Apr 94

[Interview with Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Safa' Hijazi in Cairo, date not given; from the "Arabs' Home" program—recorded]

[Text] [Hijazi] Following Israel's appalling massacre in Hebron and the issuance of Security Council Resolution 904, His Majesty King Husayn had a certain opinion about the massacre and on the resolution. Could you tell us about his opinion?

[Al-Hasan] After the massacre that Israel committed at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron during the month of Ramadan, His Majesty King Husayn made several contacts about this subject with his brother Arab leaders in Morocco, Syria, Egypt, and with President Yasir 'Arafat. He also contacted U.S. President Bill Clinton to keep the resolution intact and to avoid any abstention or veto against this resolution. The resolution was indeed passed with a U.S. abstention on two paragraphs in the preamble related to the occupied Arab territories and Jerusalem. Thanks to the efforts made by his majesty and the Jordanian Government in this regard, we believe that the resolution contained a series of positive points that satisfied the demands of the Palestinian side, particularly with respect to the protection of the Palestinian people, the disarming of the settlers, and providing international protection in the occupied territories. It is true that the matter needs to be followed up. We believe that the implementation of this resolution requires Arab and international efforts to enforce the executive measures contained in this resolution, which includes a paragraph urging the UN secretary general to follow up the matter and calling upon the cosponsors of the peace process to implement the measures contained in the resolution.

[Hijazi] Do you believe that the recent Israeli arbitrary practices are harmful to the Gaza-Jericho agreement signed between the PLO and Israel? And could this agreement be implemented on schedule on 13 April?

[Al-Hasan] First of all, we in Jordan condemn any terrorist or arbitrary practices by Israel, because this does not serve the peace process. As for the Gaza-Jericho agreement, our position is clear. Although we were not a party to this agreement and had no prior knowledge of it, Jordan backed this agreement, in support of the Palestinian brothers, out of a desire to highlight the Palestinian identity, and out of respect for the independent Palestinian decision as well as of the historic responsibility undertaken by the PLO, in its capacity as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Our backing for this agreement constitutes a real contribution to giving impetus to the peace process. We have always said that the Palestinian track is the core of the peace process. Despite the fact that we had almost reached an agreement with the Israeli side, we preferred to wait until the Palestinian brothers managed to make progress along their own track. When the Palestinian and Israeli sides reached an agreement and the PLO and Israel mutually recognized each other and the Declaration of Principles was concluded on 13 September 1993 in Washington, the next day we endorsed the agenda [of talks with Israel]; that is, on 14 September.

[Hijazi] So do you expect that this initial stage will be implemented on 13 April despite the Israeli practices?

[Al-Hasan] We hope that Israel will refrain from undertaking such practices to make room for peace. We hope that the brother Palestinians will accomplish their goal; namely, to find a solution acceptable to them. Then, we will have done our duty of respecting the Palestinian decision and will, as reflected by their legitimate leadership.

Country 'Not Party' to Israeli Desalination Project

JN3103114594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Mar-1 Apr p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's senior delegate to negotiations with Israel on water said on Wednesday [30 March] the Kingdom was not party to an Israel proposal to desalinate water from the Mediterranean Sea to meet the water needs of both countries in the 21st century.

Mundhir Haddadin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral working group on water, said the Kingdom had its own concept of integrated solutions to water shortages and had repeatedly turned down Israeli overtures to include it in the so-called "new Jordan river" project and other proposals.

Dr. Haddadin also said he was not aware of any involvement by any Jordanian company in the project, which was reported in the Israeli press on Monday.

"It is purely a unilateral project proposed by a group of academics financed by a German company," Dr. Haddadin told the JORDAN TIMES. "Jordan has nothing to do with it. We have repeatedly rejected Israeli proposals that we take part in it."

The purported plan was among four proposals submitted to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last week in light of the 28-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks, according to a report by the Associated Press.

The agency quoted Israeli sources and the YEDI'OT AHARANOT as saying that the proposal was made by the Israeli Military Industries and includes the construction of a "new, artificial Jordan river."

It would involve laying a 120-kilometre pipeline from the Mediterranean to a desalination plant in the Bet She'an area in northern Israel. The water would flow down a 320-metre decline and provide hydroelectric power for desalination. The clean water would then be piped to a long narrow dam stradd;ing the Jordanian-Israeli border and the new "Jordan river," offering water to both sides.

According to the report, the plan envisages that about a billion cubic metres of water would flow through the dam annually. The cost of the project was estimated at $3 billion, to be mostly financed by German partners, the report said.

Israel experts have also cast doubts on the feasibility of the project, which was reported as "brand new."

"It is not a new idea, it was first floated in 1870," said Dr. Haddadin, adding that he himself had presented the Jordanian viewpoint on the project when it was dusted off and presented again during recent water negotiations with Israel.

"There is no Jordanian involvement in the project and I am not aware of any Jordanian companies getting involved in it either, "Dr. Haddadin said.

Dr. Haddadin, a former head of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and one of Jordan's top experts on water resources in the Middle East region, said Jordan's concept of solution to the water shortages in the region involved the construction of a pipeline canal from the Red Sea from al-'Aqabah to the Dead Sea. This project, estimated to cost around $1.5 billion, will raise the Dead Sea to its historic level and protect the ecological features of the area, he said.

Dr. Haddadin has said that protecting the ecological features of the Dead Sea was of benefit to all parties around it, including the Palestinians and Israelis as well as Jordan, and that the project could not go ahead without approval by all of the parties concerned.

The project could bring in an annual average of 1,300 million metres of Red Sea water to the Dead Sea, will be a source of supply to desalination plants, can develop agriculture in the mostly arid southern regions of Jordan and also generate power, Dr. Haddadin said.

Israel informed a recent Beijing meeting of the multilateral working group on water that it was abandoning a similar project to bring Mediterranean water to the Dead Sea, Dr. Haddadin said.

According to reports from Israel, the government now considered the Med-Dead canal project as prohibitive in terms of cost. When the project was first proposed in the early 80s, it was estimated to cost $3 billion.

The working group, chaired by Austria, has asked the World Bank to assess the pros and cons of the Jordanian Red-Sea project, Dr. Haddadin said.

Palestinian Coordination Committee Welcomed

JN0404081894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Apr 94 pp 1, 28

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has said: We in Jordan absolutely welcome the call of Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations, for the formation of a joint, resident Jordanian-Palestinian committee in permanent session. The purpose of this committee will be to promote joint coordination and spell out, in detail, the frameworks, form, and extent of joint cooperation.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-'Anani said His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government have constantly been calling for continued Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. He pointed out that the Jordanian-Palestinian committees formed earlier should be in permanent session to coordinate stands between the two sides, especially with regard to the question of Jerusalem.

He added: We are waiting for the Palestinian side to name the members of the committee called for by Faysal al-Husayni.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry has also welcomed the formation of this committee. A responsible source said the formation of a permanent committee is very important for continued, fruitful Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the face of Israeli policy and negotiators.

He added that coordination should not be limited to the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, but should extend to all the Arab parties taking part in the peace process.

King Receives Returning Palestinian Deportees

JN0404161094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today a number of the deportees of the intifadah leadership who are returning to their homeland after the occupation authorities allowed them to return. They thanked his majesty for the care they received from their brothers and kinsfolk here in Jordan. They also expressed their pride in and appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's honorable pan-Arab stands toward the kinsfolk in the occupied homeland, and toward the Palestinian people's issues and rights.

Addressing the deportees, his majesty expressed his pride in the steadfastness of the kinsfolk in the occupied homeland on their national soil, and his appreciation of their suffering and sacrifices which, God willing, will pave the way for the emergence of a new dawn in the history of the nation and the future of its generations.

King Husayn Addresses Hebron Delegation

JN0404173194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Excerpt] A delegation from the Hebron Governorate visited the Royal Hashemite Court today. The delegation represented various popular organizations and the families of the martyrs and wounded of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. It came to express thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for His Majesty King Husayn's noble and honorable pan-Arab and human stands on the kinsfolk in the occupied homeland and for his majesty's eagerness to stand on their side in all cases and under all circumstances.

Speaking at this meeting, His Majesty King Husayn said:

[Begin recording] Brothers, I am thankful to have this opportunity to meet with you today. This home is your home and this place is your place. No matter how I try, I cannot find the words to express my feelings toward the criminal massacre and toward the suffering of the kinsfolk and brothers in Hebron and everywhere in the occupied territories. You need not thank me. We and you are one. We support you to the best of our ability. With the help of God, we will continue to be as such as long as we are alive, and until rights are restored to their rightful owners—our kinsfolk, beloved ones, and brothers—in the Palestinian territories. Please convey to the kinsfolk all love and appreciation. I take pride in our kinsfolk and appreciate their patience and endurance in the face of ordeals, challenges, and sacrifices. Their sacrifices are made for the sake of the Arab nation and for a future of justice, wellbeing, and prosperity for the coming generations on their national soil.

May God bless you. Please convey to everyone that we here are constantly for them and with them. We are confident that justice will eventually prevail. If there is any way that we can do anything, anytime, we beseech God to help us. I hope that my kinsfolk and brothers here will bring to my attention anything we can do to ease the suffering of the kinsfolk who were injured and suffered. As for the martyrs, they have preceded us down the path of martyrdom. They have fallen in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, near the forefather of the prophets [Abraham], in Ramadan, and at the dawn of a Friday. Thus, they have gone to heaven. I beseech God to make us among the righteous martyrs in defense of the Arab nation and its rights. I pray that God will inspire and help the revival of an imminent Arab awakening to restore to this nation its status among other nations, so that our nation, which is part of the Islamic nation, will become the best nation on earth, as God Almighty has wanted it to be.

If we fail to do anything, significant or trivial, forgive us and alert us, because nobody matches us in our eagerness to be with you and on your side, as we have always been in all cases and under all circumstances. National unity is not just necessary, it is imperative; we are one small family within a larger family, which is the Arab family. It is our destiny to face challenges and dangers, to suffer, and to offer martyrs. All this is an honor to us. I pray that the time will come when everyone will appreciate the extent of what the kinsfolk in the occupied territories have offered by clinging to their land and rights, and by their steadfastness and endurance throughout the long march. I beseech God to help us to be always at their side. May God guide our steps and grant us success. Once again, I address every thanks, appreciation, and gratitude for you as you visit this home and place of yours, now and anytime. As long as we live, we will take pride in our being one family. Peace and blessings be upon you. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Envoy to Yemen on Joint Military Committee Mission

JN0404132594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 29

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpt] Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Dr. Fayiz al-Rabi' has said no final decision has been made yet on the return of the Jordanian military committee to Jordan, having finished the mission it was officially assigned.

In a telephone interview with AL-RA'Y, Dr. al-Rabi' said the Jordanian military committee is now awaiting further missions. This, however, is a political, rather than a military, decision.

Dr. al-Rabi' denied reports that the members of the Jordanian side in the joint Jordanian-Omani military committee supervising the implementation of the accord document in Yemen have returned to their country following the completion of their mission.

The members of the Jordanian military committee are still in Yemen. Only certain officers returned to Amman, having spent the 'Id al-Fitr holiday in Yemen, while the officers who spent their holiday in Jordan returned to Yemen. The members of the Omani Army returned to their country and no final decision has been made on their return or reassignment to other missions in Yemen.

He said contacts are continuing between the three parties—Yemen, Jordan, and Oman—on the future missions of the military committee. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Afghans' Leader on Foreign Funding

PM2803154694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p1

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Afghans Admit Receiving Funds From Abroad"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—'Abdallah al-Hashayikah, leader of the "Jordanian Afghans" organization, has admitted receiving funds from abroad through individuals from Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, and the Philippines.

Informed sources in Amman have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that al-Hashayikah said that these individuals used to pass through Jordan and give him the money necessary for carrying out bombing operations aimed at eliminating vice.

Al-Hashayikah is in detention along with over 20 other people on charges of carrying out operations to blow up movie theaters and some liquor stores. [passage omitted]

According to judicial sources, the trials of these people by the State Security Court will begin next May and the bill of indictment will include charges of terrorism, belonging to an unlawful organization, possession of explosives for illegal use, and possession of automatic weapons. [passage omitted]

Security Officials Investigating Hotel Fire

JN0404090594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0900 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Fire has broken out briefly in Amman's Forte Grand Hotel, killing an Italian tourist and injuring at least 10 other people. Security officials were able to evacuate 430 people from the nine-story hotel and put down the blaze in a short period of time.

An Italian Embassy spokesman identified the dead tourist as (Michel Otorino). He had tried to escape the fire by jumping from the second story. Thick smoke reached the ninth floor and at least 10 people were hospitalized for broken limbs and smoke inhalation. Security officials are investigating the cause of the fire. The hotel is equipped by self-operated fire extinguishers, but were not used due to panic that gripped the hotel staff.

Buwayz Queried on Peace Talks, Christopher Tour

NC0404141194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Ma'ruf al-Da'uq, in Beirut on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Da'uq] Can you tell us what you discussed with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Hariri at this lengthy meeting?

[Buwayz] The meeting dealt with several major political issues, those concerning the regional situation and foreign policy and those concerning the domestic situation. Lebanon is undoubtedly coming to a sensitive stage as far as the [peace] negotiations are concerned, especially in view of the progress made in the Palestinian-Israeli file and the efforts being made to boost the negotiations. I believe the Lebanese arena should be fortified in a way that will enable Lebanon to deal with this stage using all its resources and capabilities.

Regarding the domestic situation and the political, media, and security issues, I believe that despite everything, this stage requires action that will enable Lebanon to get through this critical stage.

[Al-Da'uq] His beatitude the [Maronite] patriarch, in his Easter message two days ago, raised the issue of the Christians' participation and the lack of a balanced treatment of Christians. What is your view of this and of the patriarch's message?

[Buwayz] I do not believe anyone is saying he has achieved his every ambition for Lebanon, be it in relation with national unity, democracy, or the development of the political system. The crux of the matter is that this state has not inherited much. This state has not inherited establishments, only destruction and ruin. We have many more ambitions for Lebanon. As for the timing for achieving them, the state undoubtedly need not rush through each stage, but should make particular, constant progress toward strengthening national accord, building the state of institutions and the state of justice, and toward achieving the accurate, developed, and real representation, not of individuals, as much as of political ideas.

[Al-Da'uq] Minister, the vanguards of the Palestinian police started to arrive in the Gaza Strip today. Will the start of the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement help boost the negotiations, specifically on the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Buwayz] The Israeli side's excuse in the previous round of negotiations was its inability to advance on several fronts and that the Palestinian file remained open, requiring it to be focused upon before embarking on other files. It appears now that this file has made some progress on its principal points. So we are asking what the next excuse will be. In the previous round, the Israeli side claimed that the Israeli Government's domestic position did not allow the adoption of or commitment to decisive decisions. Now, following the development of this domestic position and these new alliances we see in the Israeli domestic arena, we believe there can be no excuses for keeping the negotiations stalled and futile. We believe there might be some appropriate climate if the Israeli side really wants to be serious in the coming stage.

[Al-Da'uq] Minister, have you been told that the U.S. secretary of state might visit Lebanon during his next tour?

[Buwayz] I believe this tour remains vague; its itinerary has not been drawn up.

[Al-Da'uq] Thank you, Minister.

Ongoing Security Measures, Bomb Incidents Detailed

NC0404172494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] In the context of the security measures that the Internal Security Forces and Army units are using to reassure the citizens, maintain stability, and punish those who disregard the lives of the citizens, Ba'labakk's Gendarmerie Company, operating under the command of Colonel Hasan Hallaq, the al-Biqa' area commander; and company commander Staff Col. Ghassan Subh, has carried out raids with the assistance of the Syrian Arab forces deployed in the area. The company arrested four individuals of the Shakar family in the township of al-Nabi Shit. They are Zakariya Muhammad Shakar, 'Ali Wahbah Shakar, Haytham Wahbah Shakar, and Muhammad 'Ali Shakar. They were detained in connection with the accidental fatal shooting of the policeman Husayn 'Ali Shakar.

In Tripoli a military engineer defused a small explosive device which had been placed in a yellow Renault 12 in the city's Abu-Samrah district. The device had been set to detonate when the accelerator was depressed. A security source said it is likely that the car owner was the intended victim because of a personal dispute.

In a related development, a noise bomb exploded under the car of Ahmad Tawfiq al-Barqawi al-Halabi in Tripoli's al-Mullah area. The incident occurred while the car owner was driving it, but there was only minor damage to the car.

Minister Says Media Law To Be Issued 'Soon'

NC0404165194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Minister of State 'Ali 'Usayran has said the government will soon issue a law organizing the audio and visual media and will refer it to the Chamber of Deputies for ratification or amendment.

Speaking at his home in al-Rumaylah today, 'Usayran affirmed that the Chamber of Deputies is the defender of liberties. He added that the purpose of a media law is to organize the dissemination of political information, not to suppress liberties, especially as such suppression is a fruitless activity in Lebanon.

He pointed out that during the civil war the militias attempted to dictate their wishes to local communities. He explained that all those who lived through that period know that the silent majority in Lebanon opposed and still opposes any attempt to suppress liberties.

Hizballah Statement Criticizes Cabinet Media Ban

NC0404202194 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 25 Mar 94 p 10

[Text] Commenting on the Council of Ministers' decision to ban radio and television networks from broadcasting newscasts and political programs, Hizballah has issued the following statement:

First, at a time when everyone realizes the critical stage through which Lebanon is passing and the tremendous role being played by the Islamic and national resistance in waging the battle of honor and existence against the Zionist occupation, which lies heavy on our cherished soil, at a time when the evil Israeli hands have started to transfer the cycle of massacres, killings, and destruction from the villages of the south and western al-Biqa' to other areas in the capital, spreading bloody sedition in religious places and schools and targeting innocent people in the holiest places, we stress the importance of uncovering the Zionist terrorist network and the size of the Israeli penetration of Lebanon so that the agents will receive their punishment commensurate with their abominable crimes committed against the society and homeland in service of the enemy's interests and divisive schemes.

Second, any decision dealing with the radio and television networks must differentiate between right and falsehood and must not imply the possibility of confiscating the basic rights of society represented in protecting the citizen's right to express the sound national stance or the objective opinion.

Viewing with concern the recent decisions relating to information, we believe that the timing of the decisions lacks accuracy and objectivity. Scoring great achievements need not be at the expense of other national gains.

Papers Criticize Comments of Christian Patriarch

NC0204141594 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Beirut, April 2 (AFP)—Pro-government newspapers in Lebanon Saturday [2 April] criticised the head of the Maronite Christian Church, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr, for a Good Friday speech in which he accused the Syrian-backed government of discrimination against Christians.

The AL-SHARQ daily asked whether the patriarch's homily was "a call to rebellion," adding that if it was, "it would be extremely dangerous."

The remarks of Monsignor Sfayr, spiritual leader of the largest Lebanese Christian community, "go against national understanding, while the patriarchate should be the meeting place for all Lebanese," the paper said.

Meanwhile, the AL-SAFIR newspaper accused Monsignor Sfayr of saying "things that are pleasing" to supporters of Samir Ja'ja', head of the former Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, and General Michel 'Awn, the anti-Syrian former prime minister exiled to France in 1991.

Monsignor Sfayr said Friday Christians were living in "anguish and bitterness" because they were not treated "on an equal footing" with Moslems.

He charged that Christians did not receive a fair deal in the provision of state jobs and in the protection of property and said Christian leaders had been forced to leave the country.

"Christians are not claiming privileges and do not wish to impose their will on anyone. But they want to feel that Lebanon belongs to all its citizens, who enjoy equal rights and responsibilities."

Private radio and television stations have been banned from broadcasting news and political programmes since March 23. The government has restricted all news coverage to state-run Tele Liban and Radio Liban.

The move came as the authorities launched an investigation into a church bombing last month that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 54 others.

The authorities accused seven members of the Lebanese Forces of involvement in the attack. They arrested the group's deputy Fu'ad Malik and outlawed the LF, which formed a political party in 1991.

The LF was one of the militias widely held responsible for much of the bloodshed and destruction in Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

U.S. Placement of Syria on Drug List Criticized

NC0204142594 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, April 2 (AFP)—The official press here on Saturday [2 April] accused the "Zionist" lobby of helping to keep Syria on a US list of nations involved in the international drug trade and trying to sabotage better ties between Damascus and Washington.

Syria's Tishrin daily denounced "the refusal of US congressmen who are close to the Zionist lobby, and who do not really like the Syrian-US rapprochement, to remove Syria's name from the list."

Such behavior was "proof of hostile and aggressive intentions against Syria," which had taken the necessary steps to curb the transit of drugs across its territory, the paper said, adding that Syria was not a producer country.

Tishrin recalled that in April 1993 a law was adopted requiring the death penalty for those convicted of growing, producing and trafficking drugs.

A White House statement on Friday said that Syria had done little to combat drug trafficking.

The State Department had initially wanted to exempt Syria from the list to reward it for helping to press the Palestine Liberation Organization back into peace talks, The New York Times reported Friday.

But legislators denounced the State Department's maneuvering, given Syria's poor record in stopping the opium trade in the al-Biqa Valley in Lebanon, an area largely controlled by Syria, the Times said.

Mindful of the explosiveness of granting concessions to Syria, Secretary of State Warren Christopher overruled lower-ranking officials who had recommended the exemption.

Syria is due to resume bilateral peace talks with Israel later this month.

Peres Statement on Syrian Track Progress Viewed

JN0204163194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Just as reports began to circulate about a possible Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher near the end of this month with the aim of advancing the peace process, the Israeli foreign minister said in a statement that major progress will be realized on the Syrian-Israeli track during the forthcoming negotiations. However, the Israeli minister did not say whether a change has taken place in the Israeli position that has obstructed such progress.

It is known that the Syrian-Israeli talks in particular, and the Arab-Israeli talks in general, have always faced the Tel Aviv rulers' intransigence and their refusal to discuss the most important aspect of the conflict—withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. [break in transmission]

The Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre dealt a strong blow to these talks and entrenched the conviction that Israel is not serious about realizing peace. This is not the first time that Israeli officials have spoken about progress in the negotiations with Syria. Such talk has never gone beyond media deception and negotiations tactics aimed at playing games on each track.

Hence, a demonstration of real seriousness about making progress should come through a serious declaration of commitment to reaching a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East based on Security Council resolutions. Syria has unequivocally committed itself to this position. Any talk about partial and phased settlements, or peace by installments, is only an Israeli maneuver to entrench the occupation and legitimize settlement activities.

Syria has repeatedly urged the Arab parties to stick to the principles of the Madrid conference, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the principles agreed on at the Damascus, Amman, and Beirut meetings. Syria has also urged the Arab parties to coordinate positions in a manner that will circumvent the malicious Israeli attempts to isolate Arab parties and dictate conditions on each party.

The Arab parties are expected to hold a meeting to discuss the resumption of the Washington talks in light of their contacts with the United States, the developments in the region, and the higher pan-Arab interest. It should be recalled that Israel is the one that has obstructed the Washington talks so far, and prevented the realization of the slightest progress by refusing to commit itself to withdraw from the occupied territories.

The area is now in need of real, just, and comprehensive peace. It is impossible to attain this peace without Israel's full withdrawal and the return of all occupied territories to their owners.

The only viable agreements are ones that realize calm, security, satisfaction, and peace. What we see in the occupied territories is the total opposite of this. Confrontations between the Palestinian people and the occupation forces are on the rise, and scores of people are being victimized daily. Furthermore, the occupied territories have turned into a real battlefield. Therefore, where is peace in all of this?

In response to [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres' optimism, we say that progress in the talks with Syria and the other parties depends on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories, and the full implementation of Security Council resolutions without ambiguity, and in a manner that gives the final say to international law and the principles of right and justice.

Iran

Tehran on Significance of al-Asad's Cairo Visit

NC0504110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo at the head of a delegation yesterday afternoon and immediately began talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

In addition to the two presidents, the Egyptian prime minister, defense minister, and foreign minister also participated in the bilateral Egyptian-Syrian talks. The Syrian side included the vice president and the country's foreign minister. The focus of the al- Asad-Mubarak talks was on the efforts for a compromise in the Middle East, although some regional and international issues of mutual interest such as the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia were also discussed.

The unscheduled visit by Hafiz al-Asad to Egypt is significant since within a few days Warren Christopher will be visiting the Middle East region to reactivate the wheels of diplomacy to achieve this compromise. In the course of this visit, the U.S. secretary of state is to strive to resuscitate the almost lifeless Washington- brokered Arab-Israeli talks.

These talks—which were resumed after a prolonged hiatus in the wake of Clinton and al-Asad's meeting in Geneva—were suspended by the Arab side after the al-Khalil [Hebron] massacre. Informed sources predict that after Christopher's visit and within the next 10 days these talks will resume in Washington.

At present, the crisis in the Middle East will play a decisive role in the array of political forces in this region. Therefore, between Tel Aviv and Damascus is Cairo, which is the base of the compromise and peace brokering.

While Damascus continues its role-playing in the peace talks, it is also a center for the Palestinians opposed to this compromise and is a leader of the diplomacy of intense conflict with the Zionist regime. On the other hand, Cairo is the base of the colluding Palestinians and the center of the compromising talks between 'Arafat and Tel Aviv.

Despite all this, the situation in the region, especially in the wake of the Cold War and the departure of the Soviet Union from the Middle East arena on the one hand and Mubarak's efforts for attaining a special position in Washington's Middle-East policies on the other, has brought Egypt and Syria closer together. In fact, whenever Damascus wishes to gauge the viewpoints of the United States and of the Zionist regime or to convey its own views to them the Damascus-Cairo axis becomes active.

Of course, the interim policies and strategies transpire amid these tussles, more or less. In any case, Damascus has a decisive role in the Middle East crisis both during wartime or in the course of peace talks. Neither Washington nor Tel Aviv and Cairo can nudge the process forward without taking into account al-Asad's viewpoint on regional developments, certainly not on a long-standing crisis such as that in the Middle East.

No Date for al-Asad Visit to Iran

LD0304211194 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on a report by a leading Syrian newspaper on President al-Asad's impending visit to Tehran, Mr. Rowhani, indicated that Mr. al-Asad is to make a trip to Iran but no specific date has been set for the tour.

Velayati at Pan-African Congress on Third World Unity

LD0404175794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] The seventh Pan-African Congress convened in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, today in the presence of top officials from various countries and representatives of regional and international organizations.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report Foreign Minister Velayati, who is taking part in the Congress at the invitation of the Ugandan Government, said in a speech at the session: The revival of Islam is one of the most successful replies to the rule of colonialist powers. It is the Islamic movements which are leading the struggle against foreign rule.

Mr Velayati described the special circumstances of the Third World countries, particularly African countries, in global equations and referred to the conspiracies of hegemonistic powers to plunder their wealth. He said: In the past, through dangerous propaganda, the people of the Third World were estranged from their spiritual and material values. Today colonialist powers are resorting to fresh political, economic and even military means to continue their rule.

Mr Velayati said the South-South cooperation was a prerequisite to the task of the Third World countries. He said: Collective self-sufficiency in the Third World could be further achieved through cooperation in organizations such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Unity Organization, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Our country's Foreign Minister referred to the expansion of Iran's cooperation with Africa after the victory of the

Islamic revolution. He said: Iran's diplomatic relations with African countries has doubled in the past 15 years. We are actively taking part in the development programs of African countries.

Referring to the severance of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the racist regime of South Africa he said: Iran continues to give the necessary support to freedom-seeking struggles in Africa, such as the struggle of the Namibian nation. We hope that, from now on, through unity and understanding, especially amongst the majority of the deprived peoples of South Africa, the dark days of racism come to an end in that country, too.

Commentary Examines Saudi Actions on Hajj Pilgrimage

LD0204194094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1644 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] The pilgrimage to the House of God is a religious and political duty demanded of world Muslims by the blessed and supreme God who ordered his great prophet to declare the necessity of Muslims departing toward this house from the furtherest corners of the world. While no one has the right to question and doubt the necessity of this great duty and while the need to adhere to this religious rite has an ever increasing importance in today's world, is it right for some to obstruct the path of departure of Muslims toward the House of God and to be among those who obstruct the path of God and who hinder the departure toward this House?

While some holy and religious cities easily welcome and house over two million pilgrims a day throughout the year, is it dignified for an Islamic country such as Saudi Arabia, which enjoys so much God-given wealth, to claim that it is not able to provide suitable and necessary services for the pilgrims of the House of God? Is it basically befitting for a wealthy country such as Saudi Arabia to express inability and impotence in providing services at the time of this religious duty of world Muslim people?

If there really is a disability in the management of the holy sanctuaries and in provision of services to the pilgrims, it would be suitable for this to be announced to Islamic governments so that the affluent and able Islamic countries can come to aid and assist the government of Arabia in a decent administration of the pilgrimage duty. However, to prevent the departure of enthusiastic Iranian pilgrims, who have waited for years for their turn to visit the House of the Friend, the government of Arabia has brought up the subject of accepting quotas of one-thousandth or a thousand pilgrims per one million population.

There are a number of significant issues involved here, the first of which is the fact that the quota system has no basis in religious laws and there are no references to this in either the Koran or the tradition of the prophet. To the contrary—the prevention of visits to the mosques of God or blocking the path of God and the House of God have been the subject of rebuke and censure. Second, while many Islamic countries and Muslim nations are not able to send as many pilgrims as their declared quotas, should there be any constraints—from the point of view of religious law—in increasing the quota of countries such as Iran? Furthermore has the acceptance of 120,000 Iranian pilgrims caused any problems in the past?

Why should the government of Arabia accept more than the announced pilgrim quotas from some other countries but when it comes to the Muslim people of Iran the matter is left to detailed accounting? It is possible to point to these nations—including Egypt—whose population is less than Iran, but the government of Arabia accepts tens of thousands more of their pilgrims than their claimed quota.

The other important point is that this quota system was planned and administered after the tragic killing of pilgrims to the divine sanctuary in 1987. This indicates that the government of Arabia has taken a political stance regarding the pilgrimage and is playing a political game with the religious duties of people. Of course, political experts and analysts more or less understand the sensitivity and negative consequences of such act.

While the Islamic world is facing an extensive military and cultural offensive by the West and its regional agents and while Muslims are the target of extensive anti-moral and anti-Islamic bombardments through satellites or books such as apostate Salman Rushdie's Satanic Verses and while in Bosnia, Palestine, Kashmir, Somalia, and Algeria world Muslim are killed by Westerners or their agents, is it suitable for this congregation of pilgrims—which is the most important gathering and congress of Islamic unity against the above aggressions—to be limited or for religious duties to be restrained?

It is necessary for the government of Arabia to look at this issue from a brotherly point of view—which has always been emphasized by Islamic Iran—and to remove those officials who might cause, even with a hint from foreigners, such unnecessary problems between the two Muslim nations and countries and thus prepare the grounds for a better administration of the glorious religious duty of pilgrimage.

Presently Islamic Iran, according to the agreement of the foreign ministers of the two countries in Oman, is preparing itself for the dispatch of 120,000 Iranian pilgrims and is ready to start the great operation for their transfer to Arabia. Arabia's adherence to the Koranic principle of fulfilling covenant, which is the very basis of international law and relations, is a religious and moral duty that will in turn open the way for the administration of ceremonies by the enthusiastic pilgrims of the House of God.

Tehran Views GCC Foreign Minister's Meeting

LD0404120194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in Riyadh has shown the differences in the points of view of the members of this council more than ever before. Saud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabian foreign minister and rotating chairman of the meeting, said in his speech: Iraq remains a threat to the security and stability of GCC countries. Therefore, the council's member states should take a unified stance toward it.

According to political observers, this statement is not only a reiteration of the previous position of this council on Iraq, it also points to the relations between Qatar and Oman, which have in the past year expanded considerably. Three years ago, during the oil Gulf war, in opposition to a GCC decision, Oman did not sever its relations with Iraq. Recently, with mutual visits by officials of these two countries, their relations have expanded. Qatar, unlike Oman, severed its relations with Iraq during the oil war and took part militarily in the liberation of Kuwait. However, since then—and, more precisely, since the border clash with Saudi Arabia—Qatar has restored its relations with Iraq and is currently expanding them.

Another issue on the agenda of the GCC foreign ministers, which was also pointed out in the final communique of this session, was the stance of this council regarding Israel's participation in regional multilateral meetings, which are due to take place in the future in Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. Multilateral sessions are basically derived from the so-called Middle East peace negotiations. Unlike bilateral negotiations, in which only the two opposing sides take part, the Zionist regime participates in the major multilateral sessions of Arab countries [as heard] and some European, American, and Asian countries. It is worth noting that Syria and Lebanon, which are themselves two major partners in the negotiating process with the Zionist regime, have boycotted multilateral negotiations. They believe that regional cooperation with the participation of the Zionist regime cannot be possible until tangible progress is made in resolving the crisis in the Middle East and until the aggressive policies of Israel are reversed.

A multilateral meeting on water resource cooperation is due to take place in Oman in two weeks' time. A similar session is to take place in Qatar a month later on arms control in the Middle East. Next fall, another session on the environment is due to take place in Bahrain. The Zionist regime is to take part officially in these meetings, which are being held in Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. According to political experts, this issue was brought up in the recent GCC session because the host countries of the multilateral meetings intend to act collectively [sentence as heard].

Of course, opening the door of the region to the usurper Zionist regime will not have fortunate results. The negative impacts of such uncalculated measures will definitely engulf those countries that engage in political adventurism without taking into account public opinion.

Another issue that was mentioned in the final communique of the recent GCC foreign ministers meeting was support for the position of the United Arab Emirates on the Iranian island of Abu Musa. It is obvious that the GCC is a regional organization which could clearly help to resolve any misunderstanding between the countries of the region. However, repeating the mistaken policy of this council on the Iranian island of Abu Musa destroys the cooperation of this council in finding a solution to this matter. According to political experts, the GCC cannot take part in any political effort to solve differences until it exhibits a neutral stance on regional problems.

TEHRAN TIMES Lauds UAE Statement on Disputed Island

LD0304170194 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 3 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA—A morning daily here Sunday welcomed the last week statement by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to solve the misunderstunding with Iran over Abu Musa island through the World Court and said it was indicative of peaceful coexistence with the Islamic Republic.

"Iran welcomes UAE's statement as a reflection of the maturity of that country's political system, and believes that any positive proposal will contribute to the final and mutually acceptable agreement between the two neighboring Muslim nations," wrote 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial. The Islamic Republic, added the paper, [words indistinct] and other regional countries believes that such misunderstandings between neighbors should first be resolved through bilateral discussion before involving international organizations which would act only to protect big power interests.

The article stressed that the Persian Gulf war was a result of the inability of regional governments to solve their own differences through dialogue and discussion and treat the dispute as a local rather than an international issue.

Iran had extended a hand to the UAE and had repeatedly stated its willingness to resolve the current misunderstanding with its neighbor through bilateral talks, said the paper adding that the Islamic Republic was leaving the World Court option open, but only as a last resort, and believed that at the moment there was no need to involve such organizations in this regional disagreement.

It noted that referring the disagreement to the World Court at The Hague would be counterproductive to the [words indistinct] a mutually acceptable solution and wrote that Iran did not wish to fan the flames of discord.

The paper in conclusion epressed hope that the UAE would further prove its political maturity and independence, and create an abundance of good will by warmly shaking the friendly hand extended by Iran, rather than brushing it aside.

Majles Deputies Blame Armenian Army for Plane Crash

LD0504104694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpt] In today's open Majles session, which was presided over by Deputy Speaker Movahhedi-Kermani, the bill for the amendment of Article 17 of the courts' appeal law, approved in Mordad 1372 [month beginning 23 July 1993], was approved after a second reading.

According to a report, in a letter read out in today's open session, over 150 Majles deputies conveyed their condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the downing of an Iranian C- 130 aircraft in the Karabakh region, and described the Armenian Army as the main cause of the incident and voiced their protest over the silence of international organizations in response to this incident.

In the letter, the Majles deputies called on the Armenian Government to give an explicit response on this issue and also called on our country's Foreign Ministry to pursue the matter in earnest. [passage omitted]